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Knowledge Spillovers from Clean and Dirty Technologies

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Abstract

How much should governments subsidize the development of new clean technologies? We use patent citation data to investigate the relative intensity of knowledge spillovers in clean and dirty technologies in two technological fields: energy production and transportation. We introduce a new methodology that takes into account the whole history of patent citations to capture the indirect knowledge spillovers generated by patents. We find that conditional on a wide range of potential confounding factors clean patents receive on average 43% more citations than dirty patents. Knowledge spillovers from clean technologies are comparable in scale to those observed in the IT sector. The radical novelty of clean technologies relative to more incremental dirty inventions seems to account for their superiority. Our results can support public support for clean R&D. They also suggest that green policies might be able to boost economic growth through induced knowledge spillovers.

Keywords: Innovation spill-overs, Climate Change, Growth, Patents, Clean technology, Optimal climate policy

JEL codes: O30, O44, Q54, Q55, Q58, H23

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1 Introduction

In 2012, OECD countries spent over 3 billion euros to support the development of new clean technologies such as renewable energy or hydrogen cars. Is this spending optimal or at least justified? There is a consensus among economists that market mechanisms alone cannot provide the socially optimal amount of “green” innovation because of the well-known combination of negative environmental externalities - environmental benefits are not appropriately valued by markets - and positive knowledge externalities - innovators may not reap all of the benefits of their innovations (Jaffe et al. (2005); Popp et al. (2009)). However, once some mechanism is in place to internalize the environmental externality, there is no reason a priori to implement R&D policies targeted *specifically* at clean technologies. Positive externalities in knowledge production may be addressed by generic instruments, such as intellectual property rights protection and tax rebates for research and development activities that apply to all industries equally¹ (Schneider and Goulder (1997)). Yet, in theory, subsidies to private R&D activities should reflect the size of the external spillovers from the research (Goulder and Schneider (1999)). Consequently, the optimal level of subsidies for clean R&D crucially depends on the magnitude of knowledge spillovers from clean technologies, relative to the magnitude of knowledge spillover generated by other technologies, in particular the dirty technologies they replace (Smulders and Withagen (2012)).

In this paper we use a new dataset that includes over one million patented inventions in clean and dirty technologies and three million citations to these patents to compare the magnitude of knowledge spillovers from clean and dirty technologies. We further examine potential drivers behind the observed differences in knowledge spillovers. Our data covers two sectors where we can clearly distinguish between clean and dirty inventions: electricity production

¹For example in France all companies incurring R&D expenses are eligible to receive a research tax credit, which covers 30% of all R&D expenses up to 100 million, and 5% above this threshold, irrespective of the technology covered by the R&D activities.

(renewables vs. fossil fuel energy generation) and automobiles (electric cars vs. internal combustion engines). Together, electricity production and ground transportation represent 40% of global carbon emissions (IPCC, 2007) and are thus of major policy relevance. Following a long tradition in the literature, we use patent citations to measure knowledge spillovers (Trajtenberg (1990); Caballero and Jaffe (1993); Jaffe and Trajtenberg (1999); Hall et al. (2005)). Patent documents offer a paper trail of knowledge flows as inventors are required to reference previous patents which have been useful for developing the new knowledge described in the patent. Patent citations are not without limitations, but an important advantage of our dataset is that it allows us to deal with most of the problems usually associated with their use. For example, we can identify (and discard) self-citations by inventors, as well as citations added by patent examiners, which might not capture external knowledge spillovers. Our large sample size enables us to include patent office-by-year-by-sector fixed effects, thereby purging the estimates of a wide variety of potential confounding factors, including the growing number of patents issued, the rising number of citations received, and differences in patent citation practices across patent offices, time and technological areas. We also control for the number of past patents from the same technological field (narrowly defined) and the individual quality of patents using various established measures of patent value, such as the grant status and the number of countries in which a patent is filed. We also build an alternative measure of knowledge spillovers based on Google’s PageRank algorithm to capture the entire chain of citations made. This “PatentRank” index offers the advantage of assigning a greater weight to inventions cited by inventions that are themselves highly-cited, and so on.

We find consistent evidence that clean patents generate larger knowledge spillovers than their dirty counterparts. All other things being equal, clean patented inventions receive 43% more citations than dirty inventions.² The gap is larger in the electricity production

²We can visualize the difference using “innovation flowers” (see 7), network diagram for a random sample

sector (49%) than in the transportation sector (35%). Interestingly, the gap between clean and dirty technologies has been constantly increasing during the past 50 years. We show that clean patents are not only cited more often, they are also cited by patents that are themselves cited more often (irrespective of their technological area). When considering our new PatentRank index, we also find strong evidence of larger spillovers from clean technologies. Our conclusions are robust to a large number of sensitivity tests. These include discarding citations added by patent examiners, correcting for self-citations at the applicant level, including inventor fixed effects, looking at different subsamples and including additional control variables.

Our paper revolves mostly around a distinction between radically clean innovations (e.g. electric cars, wind turbines) and dirty innovations (e.g. combustion engines, coal power plants). Yet, some inventions in the dirty category relate to energy efficiency improvements that make the dirty technology less dirty. We identify these inventions and label these “grey” innovations. We then compare knowledge spillovers between clean, grey and “truly dirty” innovations. The analysis suggests a clear ranking: clean technologies exhibit significantly higher levels of spillovers than grey technologies, which themselves outperform truly dirty technologies.

How can we account for the larger knowledge spillovers from clean technologies? One explanation stands out from our investigation: clean technologies seem to benefit from steep learning curves associated with new technological fields. ³When we control for the age of the technology, the clean premium decreases by 14%. We also compare clean inventions with other emerging technologies such as biotechs, IT, nanotechnology, robot and 3D, and find that clean patents appear much closer in terms of knowledge spillovers to these radically

of 1000 clean and 1000 dirty innovations where the edges represent citations. We can see that the green innovation flower is larger because it includes a larger number of citation edges.

³We partially control for this by including a measure of previous patenting within the technology class of a given patent in our regressions, but this novelty effect might not be well captured by the number of patents.

new fields than to the dirty technologies they replace. Interestingly knowledge spillovers from clean technologies appear comparable in scope to those in the IT sector, which has been the driver behind the third industrial revolution. When comparing clean, dirty and emerging technologies to all other inventions patented in the economy, we find a clear ranking in terms of knowledge spillovers: dirty technologies have lower knowledge spillovers than the average invention, while clean and other emerging technologies exhibit larger knowledge spillovers. With the exception of biotechs, all other emerging technologies (IT, nanotechnology, robots and 3D) show larger knowledge spillovers over the average invention than clean inventions. Taken together, these pieces of evidence suggest that the clean advantage might be a feature of the radical novelty of the field.

In an attempt to quantify the economic value of clean knowledge spillovers, we estimate a market valuation equation Hall et al. (2005) using firm level data on patents, citations, R&D and firm values. We find that significant and positive effect of knowledge spillovers, particularly knowledge spillovers from clean technologies, on the Tobin's Q.

Our results have a number of immediate implications. Firstly, with respect to climate change policy, our findings provide support for the idea that pollution pricing should be complemented with specific support for clean innovation—e.g. through additional R&D subsidies—that goes beyond standard policies in place to internalize knowledge externalities. Indeed, the higher spillover effects from clean innovation compared to dirty innovations (including “grey” energy efficiency technologies) uncovered in this paper justify higher subsidies to clean R&D in a first best policy setting. Radically new clean technologies should receive higher public support than research activities targeted at improving on the existing dirty technologies. However, such specific support could equally be justified for a range of other emerging areas, such as nanotechnologies or IT. Therefore our results go some way into supporting the recommendation by Acemoglu et al. (2012) that only clean (and not dirty)

technologies should receive R&D subsidies.⁴

Secondly, our results lend support to the idea that a redirection of innovation from dirty to clean technologies reduces the net cost of environmental policies and can lead to higher economic growth in the short run, if the benefits from higher spillovers exceed these costs. Indeed, if the factors leading to an under-provision of knowledge are more severe for clean technologies and if new clean technologies are induced by environmental regulation, environmental policies could generate growth by unintendedly correcting a market failure that has been hampering the economy, irrespective of the environmental problem (Neuhoff (2005)). In fact, the presence of a market failure associated with R&D spillovers from clean innovations is one of the possible theoretical foundations for the Porter hypothesis (Porter and Van der Linde (1995)) according to which environmental regulations may enhance firms' profits and competitiveness (see Ambec et al. (2013) and Ambec and Barla (2006), for a recent review). For example, in Mohr (2002), the existence of knowledge spillovers prevents the replacement of an old polluting technology by a new, cleaner and more productive technology, as firms have a second-mover advantage if they wait for someone else to adopt. The introduction of an environmental regulation induces firms to switch to the new, cleaner technology. This simultaneously improves environmental quality and eventually increases productivity. Our results however suggest that the potential growth effects of environmental policies very much depend on the type of displacement being induced by increasing support for clean technologies. If this leads to less investment in dirty technologies, as evidenced by Aghion et al. (2012), there seems to be scope for medium run growth effects. If innovation in other emerging areas is crowded out, such effects are less likely.

Our results also have implications for the modeling of climate change policy. For example,

⁴Interestingly, though, for a reason that is not present in their model: Acemoglu et al. (2012) do not assume different spillovers from clean and dirty technologies. The crucial assumption on which the results by Acemoglu et al. (2012) hold is that patents last only for one period. Greaker and Heggedal (2012) show that it is possible to obtain similar results when relaxing this assumption if one now assumes that clean technologies exhibit larger knowledge spillovers than dirty technologies.

Fischer and Newell (2008); Fischer et al. (2013) assess different policies for reducing carbon dioxide emissions and promoting innovation and diffusion of renewable energy, with an application to the electricity sector. They model R&D investments and learning-by-doing, but assume that knowledge spillovers have the same intensity across clean and dirty technologies. Our paper suggests that this assumption does not hold in practice and provides estimated parameters that can be used to more precisely model the difference between clean and dirty technologies.

Our paper relates to three main strands of the literature. First, our work draws on the extensive empirical literature that has used patent data to analyze the determinants and the effects of knowledge spillovers. Pioneers of patent citation data as a measure of knowledge spillovers include Scherer (1965) and Schmookler (1966). Griliches et al. (1991); Griliches (1992) survey this earlier literature. Since then, a large number of papers have used this method to investigate knowledge diffusion (see, among others, Trajtenberg (1990); Caballero and Jaffe (1993); Hall et al. (2001)). In particular, many papers have focused on the geography of knowledge spillovers (Jaffe et al. (1993); Jaffe and Trajtenberg (1996, 1999); Thompson and Fox-Kean (2005)).

Second, in the energy literature some papers have recently attempted to compare knowledge spillovers from energy technologies with those of non-energy technologies. Bjørner and Mackenhauer (2013) compare the spillover effects of private energy research with those of other (non-energy) private research. They find that spillover effects of energy research may be lower than for other types of private research. Popp and Newell (2012) use US patent citation data to compare the social value of alternative energy patents to that of other patents filed by the same firms. They find that alternative energy patents are cited more frequently by subsequent patents, and by a wider range of technologies, than other patents filed by the same firms. However, none of these papers distinguishes between clean and dirty technologies within energy technologies.

Third, our paper is closely related to the literature on the impact of environmental policies on economic growth, which is itself rooted in the endogenous growth literature (for seminal contributions, see Romer (1990); Aghion and Howitt (1992, 1996, 1998); Grossman and Helpman (1991)). Smulders and De Nooij (2003) introduce a difference in spillovers from the clean and the dirty sector into a model in which both the rate and direction of technological change are endogenous. They discuss the implication of this difference for growth in the long run. In a Schumpeterian growth model where new technologies are both more productive and more environmentally-friendly, Hart (2004) shows that environmental policy can stimulate economic growth (see also Hart (2007); Ricci (2007b), for similar types of models, and Ricci (2007a), for a review of this literature).

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In the next section we present the dataset and conduct some preliminary data exploration. In section 3, we present our empirical strategy and discuss the results of the estimations. We investigate several characteristics of clean technologies which might account for our findings in section 4. We discuss the implications of our findings in the final section.

2 Data and descriptive statistics

2.1 The patent database

In order to analyze knowledge spillovers we use data from the World Patent Statistical Database (PATSTAT), maintained by the European Patent Office (EPO). PATSTAT includes close to 70 million patent documents from 107 patent offices. We identify clean and dirty patents using the International Patent Classification (IPC) and the European Patent Classification (ECLA). For this purpose we rely heavily on work carried out at the OECD and the EPO, which has recently developed a patent classification scheme for "Technologies

related to climate change mitigation and adaptation" (see Veefkind et al. (2012), for more information on how this scheme was constructed).⁵

We focus on two sectors where we can precisely distinguish between clean and dirty patents: electricity production (renewables vs. fossil fuel energy generation) and automotive (electric and hydrogen cars vs. internal combustion engines). Our paper rests primarily on a distinction between radically clean innovations (electric cars, solar energy...) and their dirty counterparts (gasoline-fueled cars, coal-based electricity generation...). However, an important feature of the dirty category is that some patents included in this group aim at improving the efficiency of dirty technologies (for example motor vehicle fuel efficiency technologies), making the dirty technology less dirty. We refer to these energy-efficiency patents as "Grey" inventions. The list of patent classification codes used to identify clean, dirty and grey inventions is shown in table 26.

To give a concrete example of a patent, take the patent entitled "Constant Recharging Air and Electric Alternating Vehicle Power System" (US8701804B1, see 8). This patent, filed in 2012 and published in 2014 is classified as B60K 6 which falls under our clean transport category. The patent document lists the inventor, and the applicant of the invention as well as their addresses. It also references other patents which will be useful in the making of the invention including whether these citations were added by the examiner or not.

Given that the same invention may be patented in several countries, our level of observation is the patent family (the set of patents covering the same invention in several countries). In other words, we treat multiple filings of an invention as one invention and count citations by patent family instead of individual patents.⁶ In total, our sample spans from 1950 to 2005⁷

⁵This new scheme was defined with the help of experts in the field, both from within and outside the EPO, including from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It brings together technologies related to climate change that are scattered across many IPC sections and includes around 1,000 classification entries and nearly 1,500,000 patent documents.

⁶A patent family is considered clean if at least one patent within the family is clean

⁷We stop in 2005 to allow at least five years for patent to get cited. The majority of citations occur during the first five years of a patent.

Table 1: Number of clean and dirty inventions by sector

Sector	Clean	Grey	True Dirty	Total
Transport	74,877	133,083	212,193	420,153
Electricity	103,659	19,827	627,590	751,076
Total	178,536	152,910	839,783	1,171,229

and includes over 1 million inventions with approximately 3 million citations made to these inventions. A breakdown of the number of inventions in each sector can be found in table 1. Clean inventions represent around 15% of our sample.

2.2 Citation counts as knowledge spillovers

Patent data have a number of attractive features. First, patents are available at a highly technologically disaggregated level. This allows us to distinguish between clean and dirty innovations in several sectors, including electricity production and transportation. In comparison, R&D expenditures of a car company cannot usually be broken down into clean and dirty innovation. Third, patent documents contain citations to "prior art" as inventors are required to reference previous patents that have been used to develop the new technology described in the patent. Citations are a response to the legal requirement to determine the scope of an inventor's claim to novelty and thus represent a link to the pre-existing knowledge upon which the invention is built. ⁸In other words, a citation indicates that the

⁸US patent law 37 C.F.R 156 establishes that 'each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candour and good faith in dealing with the (US Patent) Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability [...] no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct'. In contrast, the EPO has no requirement similar to the duty of candour. Rule 42 of the European Patent Convention requires that the description in a European patent application should 'indicate the background art which, as far as is known to the applicant, can be regarded as useful to understand the invention, draw up the European search report and examine the European patent application, and, preferably, cite the documents reflecting such art'. The different legal requirements of the two systems have implications both in terms of who adds the citations and in the number of citations in the patents. For EPO patents, it is the patent office's examiner rather than the inventors or applicants who adds the majority of patent

knowledge contained in the cited document has been useful in the development of the new knowledge laid out in the citing patent and thus represents a knowledge flow (Collins and Wyatt (1988)). It is therefore not surprising that patent data have been widely used in empirical studies of knowledge spillovers (Jaffe et al. (1993); Jaffe and Trajtenberg (1999); Keller (2004); Caballero and Jaffe (1993); Jaffe and Trajtenberg (1996)).

Nevertheless, there are a few drawbacks to bear in mind. Patent citations are an incomplete measure of knowledge flows because they only capture flows that result in a novel and patentable technology. For this reason Griliches (1992) refers to citations as “pure knowledge spillovers”. Since not all inventions are patented, patent citations underestimate the actual extent of knowledge spillovers. Other channels of knowledge transfers, such as non-codified knowledge and embodied know-how (inter-firm transfer of knowledge embodied in skilled labor, knowledge flows between customers and suppliers, knowledge exchange at conferences and trade fairs, etc.) are not captured by patent citations. It is however reasonable to assume that knowledge spillovers within and outside the patent system are correlated. Furthermore, there is a consensus that patent citations are a noisy measure of knowledge flows (Jaffe et al. (2000)). First, citations made to patents by the same inventor (referred to as self-citations) represent transfers of knowledge that are mostly internalized, whereas citations to patents by other inventors are closer to the true notion of diffused spillovers. However, this problem can be (at least partly) resolved by excluding self-citations by the inventor. Second, some citations are added by patent examiners during the examination process (see Cockburn et al. (2003) for an overview of the process). In a survey of inventors, Jaffe et al. (2000) show that the influence of examiners on citations is considerable, and that inventors were fully aware of less than one-third of the citations on their patents. Alcacer and Gittelman (2006) find that

citations. This implies that in the EPO system, inventors are more likely to be unaware of the patents that are (ultimately) cited in their patents. However, citations in EPO patents may be less ‘noisy’ than USPTO citations, since it can be assumed that they have been scrutinised and chosen by the patent examiner, and citing-cited patent pairs might be ‘closer’ both in time and technological content than those extracted from the USPTO [Breschi and Lissoni (2005); Michel and Bettels (2001)]

examiners are responsible for 63% of citations on the average patent, and that 40% of patents have all citations added by the examiners. These types of citations might not capture pure knowledge spillovers if the inventor was genuinely unaware of that invention.⁹ Fortunately, our patent data indicate whether the citations was included by the applicant or the patent examiner. We can thus check the robustness of our results to excluding citations added by patent examiners.¹⁰ ¹¹Third, inventors and applicants might be strategically referencing prior art. Citing more prior art will make a patent more valuable in litigation, as it is much harder to prove a patent is invalid if the patent office has already considered it and rejected the relevant prior art [Allison et al. (2003)]. Most firms employ patent attorneys - many of whom were formerly patent examiners - to maximise the chances of approval by the examiner in order to avoid potential infringement and costly holdups. However, inventors have an incentive not to cite patents unnecessarily as it may reduce their claims to novelty and therefore affect the scope of the monopoly rights granted by the patent (Hegde and Sampat (2009); Sampat (2005)). Moreover, not properly referencing prior art can lead to the invalidation of the patent and is therefore a dangerous strategy.¹²

⁹Of course, if the inventor has deliberately omitted to cite a relevant invention, then citations added by patent examiners actually capture true knowledge spillovers.

¹⁰Note that even if the citations was added by the inventor, s/he might have learnt about the cited invention only after the development of the invention. We have no way to control for this potential issue.

¹¹Alcacer et al. (2009) utilise a change in the reporting of US patent data that allows to separate citations added by the inventor and the examiners to examine the examiners' behaviour with respect to inventor citations. In the first case, the patent examiner might add citations that differ in nature from the inventor/applicant citations ('gap-filling'). Statistically, the gap-filling scenario would bias estimates of inventor knowledge. In the second case, the examiner might add similar citations ('tracking'). Tracking does not lead to any bias but it may cause standard errors in statistical estimations to be inflated. This raises doubts about patent citations as good indicators of knowledge flows. If examiner and inventor citations resemble each other closely, this suggests that firms and inventors choose their citations with respect to potential infringement and holdup threats and anticipate with some error citations most likely to be added by examiners. Moreover, examiners and inventors might exchange information during the application process, and examiners themselves are prone to biases in favour of citing particular patents. Using the EPO data which allows to identify the source of the citations since 1979, Criscuolo (2006) attempt to identify the factors that influence whether an observed patent-to-patent citation was added by the applicant/examiner.

¹²"Failure of a person who is involved in the preparation or prosecution of a United States patent application to disclose material prior art can result in the patent not issuing, or if issued, being held unenforceable or invalid. As in many instances, the issue of whether prior art is material to patentability can be quite subjective; it is critical that inventors, assignees, and attorneys be acquainted with the obligations to disclose

2.3 A new measure of spillovers: PatentRank

A potential concern with citation counts is that a citation from an obscure patent is given the same weight as a citation from a highly-cited work. Hence it is possible that some patents receive less citations than others but are cited by patents that are themselves more influential (i.e., more cited themselves). In particular many ground-breaking patents are modestly cited due to the small size of the scientific community in their area at the time of the publication, but subsequent patents are themselves increasingly cited (Maslov and Redner (2009)).

In order to take into account the whole network of patent citations, we apply the random surfer PageRank algorithm (Page et al. (1999)) to our patent dataset. This algorithm was originally used by the web search engine Google to help determine the relevance or importance of a webpage. It does so by analyzing the network of hyperlinks of web pages. The basic idea is that a webpage is considered important if many other webpages point to it, or if many webpages point to the webpages that point to it (or both), and so on. To date, a handful papers have applied this method to rank the importance of patent documents (Lukach and Lukach (2007); Shaffer (2011)). The resulting PatentRank has the advantage to readily identify patents that are modestly cited but nevertheless contain ground-breaking results. It also normalizes the impact of patents from different areas allowing for a more objective comparison (Maslov and Redner (2009)).

The PatentRank of a patent i is defined as the weighted sum of PatentRanks of all patents citing i , where the weights depend on the number of citations *made* by these citing patents. Therefore, a patent has a high rank if it is cited by many patents with a high rank, and it is better to be cited by a patent that cites only one patent than by a patent that has a long list of references. The PatentRank $r(i)$ of patent i is defined according to the following formula and is computed recursively:¹³

such prior art.” (Silverman (2003a))

¹³The process converges very quickly. In practice we use 50 iterations but the process converges after just

$$r(i) = \frac{\alpha}{N} + (1 - \alpha) \sum_{j \in F(i)} \frac{r(j)}{B(j)}$$

where N is the total number of patents, $F(i)$ is the set of patents that cite patent i (i.e. patent i 's "forward citations"), and $B(j)$ is the number of citations made by patent j (i.e. patent j 's number of "backward" citations). The parameter α , the damping factor, is used to avoid sink patents (i.e. patents that are never cited) because sink patents will lead to an endless loop.¹⁴

When constructing the PatentRank, we use the entire population of inventions and their citations correcting for self-citations by the inventor. We give inventions that are never cited the smallest PatentRank and rank these PatentRanks to create a PatentRank index. It shows that there is a positive correlation overall between the citation count and the PatentRank but also a vast heterogeneity: many patents have few citations but a high PatentRank and vice versa. As opposed to citation counts, PatentRank allows us to capture the network centrality and in particular the influence of a patent. Hence, both indicators are complementary measures of the intensity of knowledge spillovers.

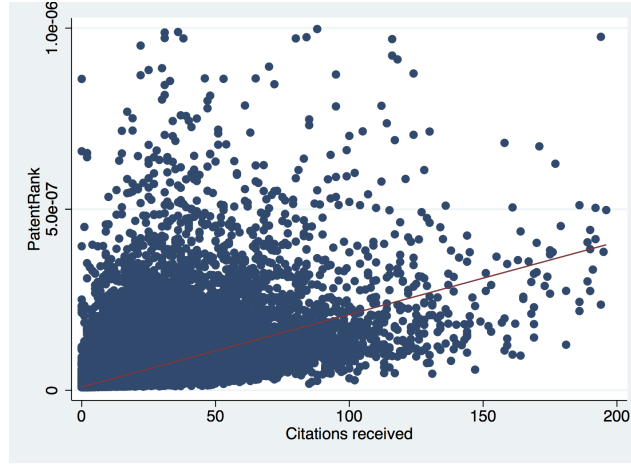
2.4 Exploratory data analysis

The objective of this paper is to compare the extent of knowledge spillovers that arise from clean and dirty innovations. As shown in table 2, aggregating both sectors together, clean inventions receive on average 3.40 citations throughout their life time while dirty inventions receive on average 2.30 citations. This difference is highly statistically significant (see column

a few iterations.

¹⁴The mechanism behind the ranking is equivalent to the random-surfer behavior, a person who surfs the web by randomly clicking links on the visited pages but periodically gets bored and jumps to a random page altogether. Therefore, when a user is on a web page, she will select one output link randomly with probability α or will jump to other webpages with probability $1 - \alpha$. It can be understood as a Markov process in which the states are web pages, and the transitions are all equally probable and are the links between webpages.

Figure 1: Correlation between citation counts and PatentRank



3). An obvious problem with this simple comparison is that clean patents are relatively newer, and hence have had less time to be cited. The average age of clean patents (the time between the publication year and today) is 22 years as opposed to 27 years for dirty patents. In order to partly deal with this truncation issue, we look at the number of citations received within the first five years of the patents' publication (Hall et al. (2001)). The difference between the number of citations received by clean and dirty inventions increases: clean patents receive 74% more citations than dirty patents within their first five years. Clean inventions also have a significantly higher PatentRank index than dirty inventions. Looking separately at each technological field, we find that the mean number of citations and the differences between clean and dirty patents vary across sectors. Inventions in the transportation sector are more cited overall and have a higher PatentRank. Clean inventions are more cited and have higher PatentRank than dirty ones in both sectors and this difference is always significant.

Table 2: Mean number of citations and PatentRank

	Clean	Dirty	Diff.
All			
Citations received	3.399 (8.256)	2.295 (5.921)	1.104*** [0.016]
Citations received within 5-years	1.807 (4.754)	1.066 (3.109)	0.741*** [0.009]
PatentRank index	2,335,270 (3,019,924)	1,920,395 (2,813,827)	414,874.3*** [7,354.756]
Transport			
Citations received	4.275 (9.626)	3.215 (7.185)	1.060*** [0.031]
Citations received within 5-years	2.572 (5.903)	1.651 (4.174)	0.920*** [0.018]
PatentRank index	2,645,597 (3,081,718)	2,429,006 (3,126,471)	216,591.2*** [12,455.71]
Electricity production			
Citations received	2.800 (7.092)	1.839 (5.091)	0.961*** [0.018]
Citations received within 5-years	1.281 (3.681)	0.767 (2.312)	0.514*** [0.009]
PatentRank index	2,119,068 (2,922,871)	1,666,122 (2,633,157)	452,945.3*** [8,948.939]

Notes: The first two columns report the mean values with standard deviation in parentheses. The last column reports a t-test for the difference in means with standard error in parentheses. *** indicates significance at 0.1% level.

3 Econometric analysis

Results from the exploratory data analysis point to larger knowledge spillovers from clean technologies. The results from this exploratory analysis can however be driven by some unobserved shocks to citation patterns disproportionately affecting clean patents. For example, the number of citations received by patents have increased recently due to the development of online patent search engines which facilitate identification of previous patents. Since clean patents are on average younger, they are likely to have been disproportionately affected by changes in the IT system. Moreover, the truncation issue is exacerbated for patents of older vintage. Even if each patent have the same amount of time to be cited, the increase in the universe of citing patents would increase the total number of citations made. Econometric methods allow us to control for these potential confounding factors.

Second, the main problem we face is the fact that clean technologies are relatively newer, which makes them intrinsically different from dirty technologies. Note that the direction of the potential bias is not obvious. On the one hand, inventors start from a lower knowledge base which may lead to greater opportunities for big breakthroughs and larger positive spillovers than more mature technologies. On the other hand, the number of opportunities to be cited is smaller for clean technologies because we only know about citations received so far. As a result, we might be overestimating or underestimating spillovers effects from clean patents, depending on which effect dominates. In order to make a first attempt at controlling for this issue, we include the stock of past patents from the same technological field (defined on the basis of 4-digit IPC code) in the regressions.¹⁵ Clearly, the stock of past patents might not perfectly capture the level of development of the technology and we come back to this point later.

Finally, citations might not exclusively capture knowledge flows, but also the commercial

¹⁵We also tried including higher-order polynomial terms of the past patent stock. This does not alter the results in any way.

value of the patent. In order to control for this problem and focus on the part of the patent’s value that is not appropriated by the inventor we include three measures of patent value: the patent’s family size, a dummy variable indicating a “triadic” patent, and a dummy variable indicating the grant status. Family size is the number of patent offices where the invention has been filed. Family size has been used widely as a measure of patent value (Lanjouw and Mody (1996); Lanjouw and Schankerman (2004); Harhoff et al. (2003)). Triadic patents are patents which have been filed in the US, European, and Japanese patent offices. Triadic patents have also been used extensively as a way to identify highest-value patents (Grupp et al. (1996); Grupp (1998); Van Pottelsberghe et al. (2001); Dernis and Khan (2004); Guellec and Van Pottelsberghe de la Potterie (2004)). The grant status of an invention indicates whether the patent has been granted by the patent office yet and obviously indicates a higher quality patent.

4 Results

4.1 Basic results

Results from Equation 1 can be found in table 3. The results from the econometric analysis confirm those of the exploratory data analysis: conditional on sector, patent office, publication year, commercial value and level of technology development, clean inventions appear to give rise to larger knowledge spillovers than dirty inventions. On average across the two technological fields, we find that clean inventions receive between 40% and 43% more citations than dirty ones depending on the specification. The coefficient is highly statistically significant across all models ($p < 0.001$).¹⁶ We get the strongest effect when adding all three

¹⁶We cluster standard errors at the sector by patent office by year level. To check the robustness of the results we cluster-bootstrap the standard errors instead. The standard error increases slightly from .0137 to .0146 with the associated p-value still < 0.001 .

measures of value as controls, but there is little variation across specifications. Given that these value measures all enter with a highly statistically significant coefficient, column 4 is our preferred specification. Notably, the number of past patents is always negative and significant, indicating that the latest patents in a field receive a decreasing number of citations as the field grows over time.¹⁷ Results based on PatentRank confirm the results found with citations counts. Clean inventions have a significantly higher PatentRank across all sectors. Hence, when considering the whole citation network, knowledge spillovers from clean technologies are still larger than those generated by dirty technologies. Moreover, PatentRank has the advantage of taking into account the possible effect of different citing behavior of inventors citing clean and dirty patents. For instance, if inventors citing clean patents generally cite more patents than inventors citing dirty patents, this would translate into higher citations received for clean innovations but not in higher PatentRank. Recall the PatentRank normalizes the number of citations received by the number of citations made by a citing patent.

We conducted a number of robustness checks on the basic specification. First, we use variations over our dependent variable to measure knowledge spillovers: the number of citations received within a five-years window (table 36), the number of citations discarding citations added by the patent examiner (table 37), and the number of citations excluding self-citations at the applicant level on top of excluding citations at the inventor-level (table 38). Second, we add various controls: the number of claims, the number of 3-digit IPC codes, the number of citations made, the number of inventors, and the number of applicants (table 39). Finally, we focus on various subsamples including patents that received at least one citations, triadic patents, patents from the US and European patent office (table 41). None of these tests modifies our results. The coefficient on the clean dummy variable ranges from

¹⁷Including the squared stock in the regression leads to a clean invention coefficient of 0.404*** (with a coefficient of -0.613*** for the stock and 0.028*** for the squared stock)

Table 3: Basic results

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Dep. var.	Citations received			PatentRank		
Clean invention	0.398*** (0.015)	0.392*** (0.015)	0.430*** (0.014)	0.267*** (0.013)	0.264*** (0.014)	0.292*** (0.014)
Number of patents		-0.092*** (0.008)	-0.057*** (0.007)		-0.052*** (0.006)	-0.031*** (0.005)
Family size			0.073*** (0.004)			0.067*** (0.003)
Triadic			0.456*** (0.036)			0.241*** (0.025)
Granted			0.947*** (0.031)			0.491*** (0.021)
Patent office-by-year-by-sector	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Month fixed effect	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Obs.	1,149,988	1,149,988	1,149,988	1,149,988	1,149,988	1,149,988

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received excluding self-citations by inventors (columns 1 to 3) and the PatentRank after 20 iterations (columns 4 to 6). All columns are estimated by fixed-effects Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood.

In order to investigate the evolution of the relative intensity of spillovers across time, we run our estimation for each five years period between 1950 and 2005 and plot the coefficients obtained for clean invention along with their 95% confidence intervals in Figures 2 and 3. We find that there has been a clear increase in the clean premium over time.

In Table 4 we present the regressions results for each technology separately. The results are robust across both sectors, but we find some heterogeneity in the clean coefficient. Clean inventions in the transportation sector receive 35% more citations than dirty inventions, while the clean premium in the electricity is larger (49%).

Our strategy is to estimate a simple count data model of the type

$$C_i = \exp(\beta \text{Clean}_i + \gamma X_i + \epsilon_i) \quad (1)$$

where C_i is the number of citations received by invention i (excluding self-citations) or the PatentRank index associated to invention i , $Clean_i$ is a dummy variable indicating whether invention i is clean, X_i are controls and ϵ_i is the error term. Our sample is the population of clean and dirty patents. Hence, the main coefficient of interest, β , captures the percentage difference between the number of citations received by clean and dirty patents, all other things being equal. Given the count data nature of the dependent variable, we estimate Equation 1 by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood. We condition out the patent office-by-year-by-sector fixed effects using the method introduced by Hausman et al. (1984), which is the count data equivalent to the within groups estimator for OLS.¹⁸ We include a number of control variables to purge the estimates from as many potential confounding factors as possible. First, as explained above, the average number of citations *received* and *made* has been rising over time (Hall et al. (2001)). Moreover, differences in patent office practices across time and technological areas may produce artificial differences in citations intensities. We therefore include a full range of patent office-by-year-by-sector fixed effects. Practically speaking, this means that we effectively compare for example clean energy patents filed at the USPTO in 2000 with dirty energy patents filed at the USPTO that same year. To account for seasonality effects, we also include dummy variables for each month using the publication date.¹⁹

¹⁸This is implemented by the `xtpoisson, fe` command in STATA. Note that Poisson models estimated by pseudo-maximum likelihood can deal with over-dispersion (see Silva and Tenreyro (2006)), so that negative binomial models offer no particular advantage. In particular, we find the pseudo-fixed effects negative binomial estimator available in stata (`xtnbreg, fe`) untrustable, since it does not truly condition out the fixed effects (only the overdispersion coefficient is assumed to vary across units - see Allison and Waterman (2002); Greene (2007), for more information on this issue). However, as a robustness check we also estimated Equation (1) using an unconditional negative binomial estimator with patent office, year, month and sector dummies (including a whole range of sector by year by patent office dummies is computationally infeasible) and find very similar results. The coefficient obtained for the clean dummy variable is 0.508***. The standard error varies from 0.041 when we cluster at the patent office and sector level, 0.023 when we cluster at the patent office level only and 0.093 when we cluster at the sector level only.

¹⁹Remember our unit of observation is the patent family. We use the earliest publication date within the family as the invention publication date.

Figure 2: The gap in knowledge spillovers between 1950 and 2005 using citations received

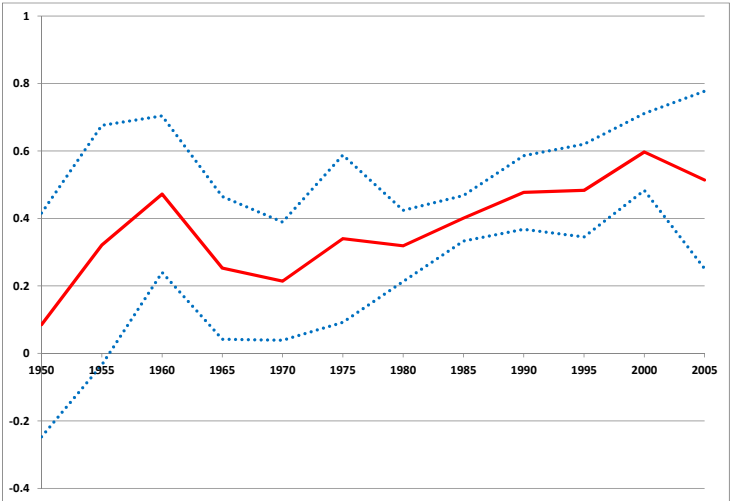


Figure 3: The gap in knowledge spillovers between 1950 and 2005 using PatentRank

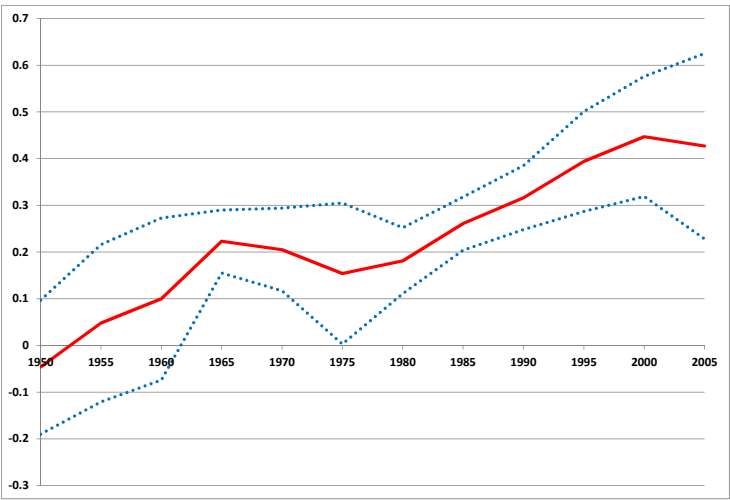


Table 4: Results by sector

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sector	Transport	Electricity	Transport	Electricity
Dep. var.	Citation count		PatentRank	
Clean invention	0.347*** (0.018)	0.488*** (0.023)	0.219*** (0.014)	0.333*** (0.023)
Number of patents	-0.068*** (0.008)	-0.047*** (0.009)	-0.048*** (0.006)	-0.019** (0.007)
Family size	0.070*** (0.008)	0.067*** (0.004)	0.062*** (0.007)	0.060*** (0.004)
Triadic	0.512*** (0.056)	0.432*** (0.050)	0.279*** (0.045)	0.252*** (0.041)
Granted	1.134*** (0.034)	0.725*** (0.024)	0.620*** (0.027)	0.381*** (0.017)
Observations	419,959	748,918	419,959	748,918

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variables are the total number of citations received excluding self-citations by inventors in columns 1 and 2 and the PatentRank index in columns 3 and 4. The regressions are all estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood. The sample includes inventions from the transport (columns 1 and 3) and electricity (columns 2 and 4) sectors. All columns include a patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

4.2 Grey innovation

Two types of innovations can reduce greenhouse gas emissions: radically new clean innovations that require consumers to substitute to a different product (e.g. electric vehicles replacing internal combustion engine propelled vehicles) or more incremental innovations that improve the energy efficiency of current (dirty) products (for example fuel efficiency technologies for combustion engines). We label this latter category as “grey” inventions. From a policy point of view an important question is whether to give priority to clean or grey innovation in order to mitigate climate change (see Aghion et al. (2012), for a further discussion on this issue).

In the results presented thus far we have included grey innovations in the “dirty” category. We now examine the difference in knowledge spillovers between the three categories. In tables 5 and 6, we compare clean inventions with grey inventions (column 2), grey and truly dirty inventions (column 3), and finally clean with truly dirty inventions only (column 4). As a benchmark, column 1 simply reproduces the results from table 4 where grey innovations are included in the dirty category. This analysis suggests a clear ranking in citations counts and PatentRank index: clean technologies exhibit significantly higher levels of spillovers than grey technologies, which themselves outperform truly dirty technologies. From a policy perspective, this result implies that radically clean technologies should receive higher public support than incremental innovation in dirty technologies.

4.3 Heterogeneous effect of the clean premium

So far we have focused on the average effect of being a clean invention on the citation outcome. We now investigate the heterogeneity of the clean premium across the distribution of citations. Quantile regression techniques are not readily available for count data models, but we bypass this issue by estimating probit models of the likelihood that a patent falls

Table 5: Clean, Grey and True Dirty

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sample	Clean vs. Grey and true Dirty	Clean vs. Grey	Grey vs. True Dirty	Clean vs. True Dirty
Dep. var.	Citations received			
Clean/Grey invention	0.430*** (0.014)	0.191*** (0.016)	0.307*** (0.016)	0.502*** (0.015)
Number of patents	-0.057*** (0.007)	-0.051*** (0.009)	-0.114*** (0.005)	-0.060*** (0.007)
Family size	0.073*** (0.004)	0.069*** (0.007)	0.072*** (0.004)	0.071*** (0.004)
Triadic	0.456*** (0.036)	0.481*** (0.055)	0.454*** (0.037)	0.441*** (0.035)
Granted	0.947*** (0.031)	0.997*** (0.035)	0.977*** (0.033)	0.868*** (0.027)
Observations	1,149,988	326,942	978,179	1,006,996

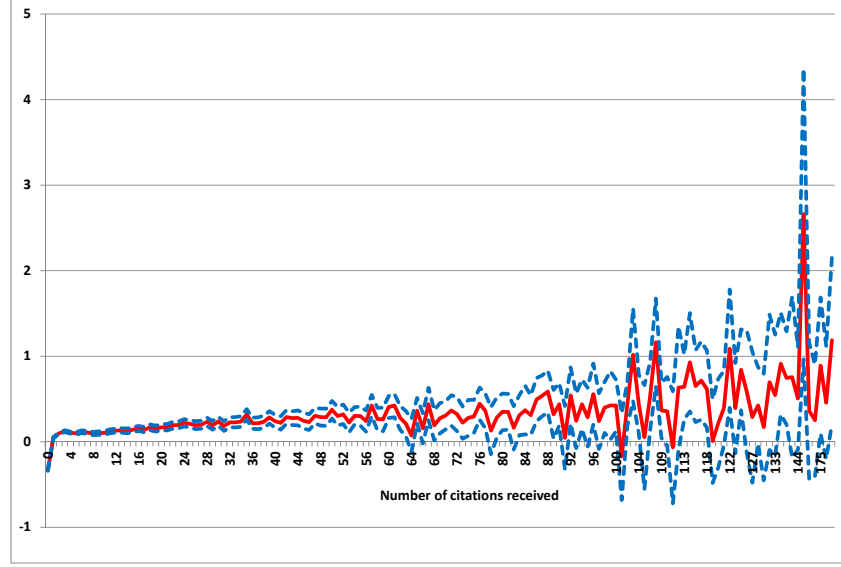
Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, corrected for self-citations by inventors. The sample includes clean, grey and truly dirty (column 1), clean and grey (column 2), grey and truly dirty (column 3), and clean and truly dirty (column 4) inventions. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Table 6: Clean, Grey and True Dirty

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sample	Clean vs. Grey and true Dirty	Clean vs. Grey	Grey vs. True Dirty	Clean vs. True Dirty
Dep. var.	PatentRank index			
Clean/Grey invention	0.292*** (0.014)	0.121*** (0.012)	0.190*** (0.016)	0.331*** (0.015)
Number of patents	-0.031*** (0.005)	-0.006 (0.008)	-0.084*** (0.004)	-0.029*** (0.005)
Family size	0.067*** (0.003)	0.059*** (0.006)	0.065*** (0.004)	0.065*** (0.003)
Triadic	0.241*** (0.025)	0.278*** (0.045)	0.238*** (0.028)	0.240*** (0.026)
Granted	0.491*** (0.021)	0.520*** (0.022)	0.508*** (0.022)	0.456*** (0.019)
Observations	1,149,988	326,942	978,179	1,006,996

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the PatentRank index. The sample includes clean, grey and truly dirty (column 1), clean and grey (column 2), grey and truly dirty (column 3), and clean and truly dirty (column 4) inventions. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Figure 4: Heterogeneity



within a given percentile of the patent citation distribution (see Chernozhukov et al. (2013) for a discussion of this issue). We run the following model:

$$Prob(Cite_i^j = 1) = \alpha + \beta Clean_i + \gamma X_i + \epsilon_i \quad (2)$$

where $Cite_i^j$ equals one if invention i receives j citations where j varies between 0 (56% of inventions are never cited) and 479 (the most highly cited invention). $Clean_i$ and X_i are identical to the previous section. Hence the coefficient obtained for $Clean_i$ captures the difference between clean and dirty inventions in the probability of invention i to receive j citations. Figure 4 shows the coefficient obtained for $Clean_i$ and the associated 95% confidence interval on the number of citations received. We conclude from these results that (i) clean inventions are *always* more likely to have a positive citation count than dirty inventions at all levels of the distribution and (ii) the higher intensity of knowledge spillovers from clean technologies is even more pronounced for most highly cited patents.

5 Monetary value of knowledge spillovers

In order to quantify the economic value of knowledge spillovers, in particular clean knowledge spillovers, we estimate a market valuation equation using firm-level data. Following Hall et al. (2005), a firm's knowledge assets are modeled as being accumulated in a continuously ongoing innovative process in which R&D expenditures reflect innovative input, patents record the successful innovations that can be appropriated by the firm, and citations received by the firm's patents (forward citations) measure the relative importance of the patents. We also include citations made (backward citations) as in Deng (2008) as a proxy of the knowledge flows the firm has received, which are considered an additional kind of innovative input to direct R&D spendings on the belief that more knowledge inflows increase the firm's knowledge stock and may boost the firm's R&D productivity. We extend Deng (2008)'s analysis by further distinguishing between clean and dirty backward citations to capture knowledge spillovers from clean and dirty technologies.

Consider Griliches (1981)'s market valuation equation

$$V_{it} = q_t(A_{it} + \beta K_{it})^\sigma \quad (3)$$

where V_{it} denotes firm i 's stock market value in year t , A_{it} the book value of its physical assets, and K_{it} the knowledge assets. q_t represents the shadow value of firms' assets, and the coefficient b measures the shadow value of knowledge assets relative to physical assets. σ measures the scale effects in the value function and is assumed to be one.

Taking the logarithm, we have the following estimation equation:

$$\log Q_{it} = \log\left(\frac{V_{it}}{A_{it}}\right) = \log q_t + \log\left(1 + \beta \frac{K_{it}}{A_{it}}\right) + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (4)$$

where Q_{it} represents Tobin's q and ε_{it} are the prediction errors.

As Deng (2008), we use the following value function to evaluate the firm's knowledge assets

$$K_{it} = f(R\&D_{it}, BCIT_{it}, \omega_{it}) \quad (5)$$

where $R\&D_{it}$ denotes the accumulated R&D spendings, $BCIT_{it}$ the accumulated backward citations the firm has made as a proxy of the knowledge inflows received by the firm, and ω_{it} the accumulated idiosyncratic productivity shocks in the firm's inventive activities. ω_{it} is proxied by the patent / R&D ratio, weighted by the average number of forward citations the firm's patents receive over their entire lives (Hall et al. (2005)). This can be viewed as the knowledge outflow made by the firm.

Taking first-order Taylor expansion of equation 6 yields

$$K_{it} = f_1 \times R\&D_{it} + f_2 \times BCIT_{it} + f_3 \times \frac{PAT_{it}}{R\&D_{it}} + f_4 \times \frac{FCIT_{it}}{PAT_{it}} \quad (6)$$

where PAT_{it} and $FCIT_{it}$ are firm i 's patent stock and forward citations stock in year t respectively. Combining equations 5 and 7 leads to

$$\log Q_{it} = \log q_t + \log(1 + \beta_1 \frac{R\&D_{it}}{A_{it}} + \beta_2 \frac{BCIT_{it}}{PAT_{it}} + \beta_3 \frac{PAT_{it}}{R\&D_{it}} + \beta_4 \frac{FCIT_{it}}{PAT_{it}}) + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (7)$$

The coefficient β_2 represents the value of knowledge flows brought by an additional backward citation, and $\frac{\beta_2}{\beta_1}$ is a direct measure of the monetary value of knowledge spillovers in terms of R&D equivalent dollar.

We further decompose $BCIT_{it}$ into clean, dirty and other citations.

$$\log Q_{it} = \log q_t + \log\left(1 + \beta_1 \frac{R\&D_{it}}{A_{it}} + \beta_{21} \frac{BCIT_{it}^{clean}}{PAT_{it}} + \beta_{22} \frac{BCIT_{it}^{dirty}}{PAT_{it}} + \beta_{23} \frac{BCIT_{it}^{other}}{PAT_{it}} + \beta_3 \frac{PAT_{it}}{R\&D_{it}} + \beta_4 \frac{FCIT_{it}}{PAT_{it}}\right) + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (8)$$

For this purpose, we combine the PATSTAT database with the ORBIS database which contains firm-level information such as R&D expenses, number of employees, and total number of assets. The analysis focuses on 10,299 firms from 2001 to 2011 for which we can match both datasets and identify each firm's patents along with the citations (both backward and forward) associated to them.

We calculate the stock of R&D (patents) as the accumulated past R&D expenditures (the number of patents) subject to an annual depreciation rate assumed to be a constant 10%. The stock of backward citations is measured taking into account the age of the patent and then aggregate them over the firm's patent portfolio each year subject to annual depreciation. The stock of forward citations measures the relative importance of a firm's portfolio. Given the truncation issues associated to the time lag in observing forward citations, we stop our sample in 2011 and scale citations taking into account the average citations across publication years, patent offices, sector and citation year. We finally aggregate these scaled forward citations subject to annual depreciation. A table of descriptive statistics can be found in the appendix.

Table 7 shows a significant positive monetary value for knowledge spillovers in column 3. Column 4 distinguishes between clean, dirty and all other types of spillovers. We see that knowledge spillovers from clean and other technologies are positive although less significant.

Table 7: Estimation of Tobin's Q equation

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dep. var.	Tobin's Q			
R&D / assets	0.062*** (0.003)	0.063*** (0.003)	0.063*** (0.003)	0.063*** (0.003)
Patent / R&D		-0.003 (0.016)	-0.003 (0.016)	-0.003 (0.016)
Fwd citations / patent		0.020*** (0.003)	0.016*** (0.003)	0.017*** (0.003)
Bwd citations / patent			0.007** (0.002)	
Bwd clean citations / patent				0.085* (0.033)
Bwd dirty citations / patent				0.011 (0.033)
Bwd other citations / patent				0.006** (0.002)
Observations	37,346	37,346	37,346	37,346

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the Tobin's Q defined as the stock market value over the book value of physical assets. The sample all firms All columns are estimated by OLS and include year dummies and firm fixed effects.

6 Drivers of the clean advantage

All our findings point to larger knowledge spillovers from clean technologies. This suggests that clean technologies may share common characteristics which increase the magnitude of knowledge spillovers. In the following section we explore several possible explanations for our findings.

6.1 Localized knowledge spillovers

The existence of localized knowledge spillovers has been widely documented (see Audretsch and Feldman (2004) for an overview). In one of the earliest papers on this subject, Jaffe et al. (1993) show that spillovers from research to firms are more intense when the firm is closer to the institution that generated the research. Jaffe and Trajtenberg (1996, 1999) show that patent citations tend to occur initially between firms that are close to each other, and later on spread to a larger geographical area and other countries. Using European patent data, Maurseth and Verspagen (2002) show that patent citations occur more often between regions which belong to the same country, same linguistic group and geographical proximity (see also Peri (2005)). Similar results have been found for energy technologies (see Braun et al. (2010); Verdolini and Galeotti (2011)).

In our case, clean technologies could generate larger knowledge spillovers than dirty technologies simply because the clean industry might be more clustered geographically than the dirty industry. Although we do not have detailed information on the exact localization of inventors, we do have extensive information on their country of residence. We use this information to distinguish between national (within-border) and international (cross-border) citations. We then separately run regressions on these two sets of citation counts. ²⁰For

²⁰In the case of collaboration, we weight each citations by the number of inventors from each country involved in the invention. For example, three inventors working together, one in country A and two in country B, will count as 1/3 of a citation for country A and 2/3 of a citation for country B.

Table 8: Within vs. across-country spillovers

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Dep. var.	Citations received	Citations received within country	Citations received across country
Clean invention	0.430*** (0.014)	0.423*** (0.017)	0.247*** (0.019)
Number of patents	-0.057*** (0.007)	-0.057*** (0.008)	-0.081*** (0.006)
Family size	0.073*** (0.004)	0.062*** (0.003)	0.066*** (0.004)
Triadic	0.456*** (0.036)	0.363*** (0.028)	0.212*** (0.040)
Granted	0.947*** (0.031)	0.757*** (0.029)	0.829*** (0.030)
Obs.	1,149,988	1,149,988	1,149,988

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variables are the total number of citations received (column 1), the total number of citations received from the inventor's country (column 2), the total number of citations received from all countries except the invention's (column 3) corrected for self-citations by inventors. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

the PatentRank, we compute a new PatentRank on the pool of national citations and international separately. We find that clean inventions exhibit larger national (column 2) and international (column 3) spillovers. This suggests that clean inventor community transcend country borders. The clean advantage is larger in terms of domestic spillovers are larger than international ones.

6.2 Public support for R&D

With many clean technologies dependent on policy support of one form or another, the expansion of clean technologies and its spillovers could be due in part to public investment. For instance, in 2011 OECD countries spent over 3 billion euros on R&D support to renewable energy technologies. To control for the government spending level, we include in table 10 the government spending in clean and dirty technologies within the transport and electricity

Table 9: Within vs. across-country spillovers

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Dep. var.	PatentRank	PatentRank for “national” citations	PatentRank for “international” citations
Clean invention	0.292*** (0.014)	0.285*** (0.017)	0.361*** (0.013)
Number of patents	-0.031*** (0.005)	-0.035*** (0.006)	-0.042*** (0.005)
Family size	0.067*** (0.003)	0.062*** (0.003)	0.073*** (0.003)
Triadic	0.241*** (0.026)	0.240** (0.020)	0.331*** (0.033)
Granted	0.491*** (0.021)	0.435*** (0.016)	0.731*** (0.028)
Obs.	1,149,988	1,149,988	1,149,988

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variables are the PatentRank index (column 1), the PatentRank index on the pool of national citations (column 2), and the PatentRank index on the pool of international citations (column 3). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

sectors. Since we only have information on R&D spending for 28 countries from 1974 onwards, we run the baseline regression for this sample in columns 1, 3 and 5 and the include the government spending in columns 2, 4 and 6. On average, clean inventions exhibit even larger spillovers than dirty inventions after controlling for government spending. This effect is driven by the electricity production sector.

Another related concern is that research in clean technologies might come disproportionately from universities rather than private firms. If this is the case, the clean premium might come from the fact that university patents are more highly cited and more general (Henderson et al. (1998)). Moreover, the incentive and reward structure within the university system induce scientists to invest in their reputation by making research publicly available (openness of the academic community) and make them more willing to recognize the influence of their predecessors. We control for whether the patent was filed by a university or a firm in Table 12 with private individuals being the baseline and still find that clean inventions receive 42%

Table 10: Government spending

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sample	All		Transport		Electricity	
Dep. var.	Citations received					
Clean invention	0.493*** (0.026)	0.507*** (0.026)	0.253** (0.077)	0.253*** (0.079)	0.483*** (0.026)	0.497*** (0.026)
Government spending		0.034*** (0.007)		-0.001 (0.033)		0.032*** (0.007)
Number of patents	-0.007 (0.009)	-0.006 (0.009)	-0.070*** (0.020)	-0.070*** (0.020)	-0.006 (0.009)	-0.005 (0.009)
Family size	0.067*** (0.004)	0.067*** (0.004)	0.054*** (0.012)	0.054*** (0.012)	0.066*** (0.004)	0.066*** (0.004)
Triadic	0.452*** (0.046)	0.450*** (0.046)	0.474*** (0.093)	0.474*** (0.094)	0.447*** (0.046)	0.445*** (0.047)
Granted	0.689*** (0.025)	0.688*** (0.025)	0.776*** (0.055)	0.776*** (0.055)	0.696*** (0.026)	0.695*** (0.026)
Obs.	496,788	496,788	16,703	16,703	488,896	488,896

Source: International Energy Agency (2013): Energy Technology Research and Development Database (Edition: 2013). Mimas, University of Manchester

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received excluding self-citations by inventors. The sample includes clean and dirty inventions from the transport sector (columns 3 and 4), electricity sector (columns 5 and 6) and both transport and electricity sectors (columns 1 and 2). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

more citations than their dirty counterpart. Finally we run our baseline regression on the sub-samples of university applicants, firms and individuals. Results are shown in columns 1, 2, and 3 respectively in table 13. In all three cases, clean inventions generate more spillovers than their dirty counterparts.

Taken together, these results suggest that public support for R&D is not the driving force behind the clean premium.

6.3 Network effects

Whether guided by “norms of science” (Merton (1957); Small and Griffith (1974)) or self-interest including personal connections (Leopold (1973); Case and Higgins (2000)), one might

Table 11: Government spending

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sample	All		Transport		Electricity	
Dep. var.	PatentRank index					
Clean invention	0.345*** (0.028)	0.353*** (0.026)	0.153** (0.052)	0.149** (0.052)	0.339** (0.028)	0.347** (0.026)
Government spending		0.022*** (0.007)		-0.020 (0.155)		0.021** (0.006)
Number of patents	0.012 (0.008)	0.013 (0.008)	-0.040** (0.015)	-0.040** (0.015)	0.013 (0.008)	0.014 (0.008)
Family size	0.060*** (0.004)	0.059*** (0.004)	0.057*** (0.015)	0.057*** (0.015)	0.059*** (0.004)	0.059*** (0.004)
Triadic	0.285*** (0.037)	0.284*** (0.037)	0.391*** (0.076)	0.394*** (0.076)	0.274*** (0.037)	0.273*** (0.037)
Granted	0.360*** (0.017)	0.360*** (0.017)	0.534*** (0.032)	0.535*** (0.032)	0.359*** (0.017)	0.358*** (0.017)
Obs.	497,439	497,439	16,719	16,719	489,531	489,531

Source: International Energy Agency (2013): Energy Technology Research and Development Database (Edition: 2013). Mimas, University of Manchester

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is the PatentRank index. The sample includes clean and dirty inventions from the transport sector (columns 3 and 4), electricity sector (columns 5 and 6) and both transport and electricity sectors (columns 1 and 2). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Table 12: University and Firms

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dep. var.	Citations received		PatentRank index	
Clean invention	0.421*** (0.014)	0.423*** (0.015)	0.293*** (0.013)	0.298*** (0.013)
Number of patents	-0.047*** (0.006)	-0.050*** (0.006)	-0.019*** (0.004)	-0.022*** (0.004)
Family size	0.070*** (0.003)	0.067*** (0.003)	0.063*** (0.003)	0.060*** (0.003)
Triadic	0.450*** (0.034)	0.432*** (0.034)	0.237*** (0.024)	0.229*** (0.024)
Granted	1.005*** (0.031)	0.992*** (0.032)	0.561*** (0.021)	0.552*** (0.021)
University		0.429*** (0.022)		0.276*** (0.014)
Firms		0.271*** (0.018)		0.206*** (0.011)
Obs.	826,078	826,078	826,078	826,078

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received excluding self-citations by inventors (columns 1 and 2) and the PatentRank index (columns 3 and 4). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Table 13: University, firms, and private individuals

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Applicant	University	Firm	Individual	University	Firm	Individual
Dep. var.	Citations received			PatentRank index		
Clean invention	0.396*** (0.003)	0.418*** (0.016)	0.459*** (0.030)	0.311*** (0.016)	0.290*** (0.014)	0.331*** (0.019)
Number of patents	-0.100*** (0.014)	-0.041*** (0.007)	-0.068*** (0.011)	-0.040*** (0.006)	-0.015*** (0.005)	-0.049*** (0.007)
Family size	0.072*** (0.005)	0.067*** (0.003)	0.377*** (0.042)	0.056*** (0.005)	0.060*** (0.003)	0.289*** (0.036)
Triadic	0.152*** (0.043)	0.454*** (0.035)	-0.870 (0.613)	0.096** (0.030)	0.239*** (0.025)	-0.614 (0.340)
Granted	0.775*** (0.047)	1.022*** (0.032)	0.131*** (0.036)	0.411*** (0.030)	0.571*** (0.022)	0.088*** (0.025)
Obs.	36,186	706,517	75,487	36,186	706,517	75,487

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received excluding self-citations by inventors (columns 1 to 3) and the PatentRank index (columns 4 to 6). The sample includes inventions which have universities (column 1 and 4), firms (column 2 and 5), or individuals (column 3 and 6) as applicants. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

be concerned that inventors working on clean innovation behave systematically differently from inventors working on dirty innovations. The community of researchers working on clean technologies could perhaps be smaller and more close-knit. Stuart and Podolny (1996) for instance argue that there is also a strong social component to a citation. The clean premium would then represent inventors' networks rather than true knowledge spillovers. To address this issue we restrict our sample to inventors who have been working both on clean and dirty technologies and include inventor fixed effects in our baseline estimations. Our data includes 41,713 such inventors (representing 2.92% of total inventors). Results are presented in table 14. The clean premium remains significant albeit of slightly smaller magnitude. However, this is due to the different sample as can be seen by comparing columns 1 and 2 and columns 3 and 4 respectively. We similarly introduce applicant fixed effects and the results do not change either (see table 33 in the robustness checks section).

Table 14: Adding inventor fixed effect

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dep. var.	Citations received		PatentRank	
Clean invention	0.274*** (0.007)	0.336*** (0.011)	0.216*** (0.004)	0.259*** (0.006)
Number of patents	-0.096*** (0.004)	-0.081*** (0.006)	-0.028*** (0.002)	-0.023*** (0.003)
Family size	0.038*** (0.002)	0.094*** (0.006)	0.027*** (0.002)	0.077*** (0.004)
Triadic	0.866*** (0.012)	0.644*** (0.026)	0.598*** (0.009)	0.405*** (0.015)
Granted	1.234*** (0.007)	1.008*** (0.011)	0.721*** (0.005)	0.572*** (0.007)
Inventor fixed effect	no	yes	no	yes
Obs.	697,192	697,192	697,192	697,192

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received excluding self-citations by inventors. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office, sector, year and month fixed effects.

6.4 Nature of the citations

There are two important types of citations: references to patent documents that are particularly close to the new invention, which restrict the claims of the inventor, and references related to the technological background of the new invention. Therefore citations may reflect the similarity of inventions rather than the cumulative nature of innovation (Packalen and Bhattacharya (2012)). To account for the heterogeneous nature of citations, we distinguish between citations received from inventions in the same technological sector (defined using the 3-digit IPC code as assigned by the patent examiner) and citations received from inventions in a different technological sector.²¹ While the former include citations which might merely reflect similarities between patents, the latter should be closer to true knowledge spillovers.

²¹An important difference between the EPO and the USPTO systems is that in European search reports, cited documents are classified by the patent examiner within a particular citation category according to their relevance. When assessing the novelty of patent applications the examiner searches for earlier documents which have the same or almost the same features as the patent concerned [Schmoch (1993)].

Table 15: Intra vs. inter-sectoral spillovers

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Dep. var.	Citations received	Intra-sectoral citations	Inter-sectoral citations
Clean invention	0.430*** (0.014)	0.457*** (0.015)	0.247*** (0.019)
Number of patents	-0.057*** (0.007)	-0.053*** (0.007)	-0.081*** (0.006)
Family size	0.073*** (0.004)	0.074*** (0.004)	0.066*** (0.003)
Triadic	0.456*** (0.036)	0.487*** (0.036)	0.212*** (0.040)
Granted	0.947*** (0.031)	0.963*** (0.032)	0.829*** (0.030)
Obs.	1,149,988	1,149,988	1,149,988

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). s. The dependent variables are the total number of citations (column 1), within a technological field (based on IPC 3 digit code) (column 2), across technological field (column 3) corrected for self-citations by inventors. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

We then run our baseline regression separately on these two types of citations. Table 15 shows that clean inventions receive more citations both within and across technological fields, suggesting they do generate larger knowledge spillovers in the economy. The PatentRank index is computed on the pool of intrasectoral and intersectoral citations separately.

6.5 Generality and Originality

Clean technologies, being relatively newer, might have more opportunities for “fundamental” research while older dirty technologies might instead be focused on the development of new applications. If clean technologies have more general applications, this might explain why they receive more citations and appear to induce larger knowledge spillovers.

In the previous section, clean inventions were found to be more likely to be cited both within or across their originating technological field. To further investigate the generality of clean

Table 16: Intra vs. inter-sectoral spillovers

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Dep. var.	PatentRank	PatentRank intra-sectoral	PatentRank inter-sectoral
Clean invention	0.292*** (0.014)	0.336*** (0.016)	0.248*** (0.016)
Number of patents	-0.031*** (0.005)	-0.044*** (0.006)	-0.160*** (0.007)
Family size	0.067*** (0.003)	0.067*** (0.003)	0.068*** (0.003)
Triadic	0.241*** (0.026)	0.246*** (0.025)	0.259*** (0.025)
Granted	0.491*** (0.021)	0.456*** (0.021)	0.521*** (0.017)
Obs.	1,149,988	1,149,988	1,149,988

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variables are PatentRank index (column 1), PatentRank index on citations within their own technological field (based on IPC 3 digit code) (column 2), and the PatentRank index on citations across across technological field (column 3). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

and dirty inventions, we construct a measure of generality based on the Herfindahl index of concentration introduced by Trajtenberg et al. (1997). It measures the extent to which the follow-up technical advances (i.e. the citations) are spread across different technological fields, rather than being concentrated in just a few of them (i.e., they are more likely to have the characteristics of a General Purpose Technology, see Bresnahan and Trajtenberg (1995); Popp and Newell (2012)). The generality of a patent is defined in the following way:

$$Generality_i = 1 - \sum_j^{n_i} s_{ij}^2 \quad (9)$$

where s_{ij} is the percentage of patent citations *received* by patent family i that belong to patent class j (defined at 3-digit IPC code), out of n_i patent classes.²² An originating patent with generality approaching one receives citations that are very widely dispersed across patent classes; a generality equal to zero corresponds to the case where all citations fall into a single class.

Similarly, one might suspect that clean technologies are more *original* than their dirty counterparts because they are relatively newer. We construct an originality measure using the same approach as in equation 9 but replacing s_{ij} by the percentage of citations *made* (instead of received) by invention i that belong to patent class j (defined again at 3-digit IPC code).²³ Thus, if a patent cites previous patents that belong to a narrow set of technologies the originality score will be low, whereas citing patents in a wide range of fields would render a high score.

We carry out regressions using this generality measure as a new outcome variable. Clean technologies are significantly more general and original in the transport industry while the

²²Specifically, we count the number of citations made by a *patent* and received by a *patent family*. This way we are only capturing citations directly made to an invention as oppose to citations made from one patent family to another.

²³These measures depend upon the classification system: a finer classification would render higher measures, and conversely for a coarser system. We use 3-digit IPC code as used in Hall et al. (2001)

Table 17: Generality and Originality

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sector	All	Transport	Electricity	All	Transport	Electricity
Dep. var.	Generality measure			Originality measure		
Clean invention	0.008* (0.003)	0.047*** (0.003)	-0.034*** (0.003)	-0.003 (0.004)	0.049*** (0.004)	-0.054*** (0.003)
Number of patents	-0.047*** (0.002)	-0.081*** (0.002)	-0.024*** (0.001)	-0.050*** (0.002)	-0.086*** (0.002)	-0.027*** (0.001)
Family size	0.012*** (0.001)	0.011*** (0.001)	0.012*** (0.001)	0.008*** (0.0004)	0.007*** (0.001)	0.007*** (0.001)
Triadic	0.035*** (0.003)	0.028*** (0.004)	0.046*** (0.005)	0.026*** (0.003)	0.017*** (0.003)	0.037*** (0.005)
Granted	0.047*** (0.002)	0.053*** (0.002)	0.039*** (0.003)	0.024*** (0.002)	0.024*** (0.003)	0.022*** (0.002)
Observations	515,217	227,678	291,989	382,236	162,919	222,538

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is a generality measure (columns 1 to 3) and a originality measure (columns 4 to 6) based on Herfindahl index of concentration. The sample includes patents in the transport sectors only (column 2 and 5), in the electricity sector only (column 3 and 6), and in both sectors (columns 1 and 4). All columns are estimated by OLS and include patent office-by-year-by-sector fixed effects, and month fixed effects.

opposite in true for the electricity production industry (see Table 17).²⁴ Adding generality (column 2), originality (column 3) and finally both measures (column 4) as control in Table 18 confirms the finding of greater knowledge spillovers from clean inventions. Interestingly, the coefficient is slightly smaller when adding these controls than under the baseline specification (column 1). This suggests that these measures, particularly the generality measure, explain (a small) part of the clean premium.

6.6 Clean technologies versus other emerging fields

Technologies that contain a high degree of new knowledge (radical innovations) are likely to exhibit higher spillover effects than technologies that contain a low degree of new knowledge

²⁴Note that there is a potential selection bias here, as patents that have never been cited have no generality measure and are therefore left out of the sample.

Table 18: Generality and originality as controls

Dep. var.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	Citations received			PatentRank index				
Clean invention	0.365*** (0.012)	0.332*** (0.012)	0.363*** (0.012)	0.332*** (0.012)	0.193*** (0.007)	0.179*** (0.007)	0.193*** (0.007)	0.178*** (0.007)
Number of patents	-0.044*** (0.005)	0.007 (0.006)	-0.025*** (0.005)	0.006 (0.005)	-0.010*** (0.002)	0.019*** (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	0.016*** (0.002)
Family size	0.043*** (0.002)	0.039*** (0.002)	0.041*** (0.002)	0.039*** (0.002)	0.026*** (0.001)	0.022*** (0.001)	0.025*** (0.001)	0.023*** (0.001)
Triadic	0.296*** (0.014)	0.264*** (0.013)	0.287*** (0.014)	0.264*** (0.013)	0.130*** (0.007)	0.110*** (0.006)	0.127*** (0.007)	0.111*** (0.006)
Granted	0.673*** (0.023)	0.591*** (0.021)	0.659*** (0.022)	0.592*** (0.021)	0.245*** (0.010)	0.203*** (0.010)	0.240*** (0.010)	0.204*** (0.010)
Generality		1.149*** (0.019)		1.164*** (0.019)		0.628*** (0.010)		0.663*** (0.010)
Originality			0.371*** (0.015)	-0.036* (0.015)			0.127*** (0.006)	-0.097*** (0.008)
Obs.	281,978	281,978	281,978	281,978	281,978	281,978	281,978	281,978

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, corrected for self-citations by inventors. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

(incremental innovations). Clean technologies are new and rather under-developed technologies. In contrast, the dirty technologies they replace are much more mature and developed. Therefore research in clean technologies might yield spillovers that are completely different in scope from research in dirty technologies because they can be considered as radically new innovations. In order to investigate this assumption, we use several strategies.

First, we control for the age of the invention’s technological field defined as the time elapsed since the date of the first appearance of this technological field (defined at the 15-digit IPC code) in any patent. Results are reported in column 2 of Table 19. Controlling for the age of the technology decreases the coefficient obtained for the clean dummy variable. In order to account for potential non-linearities we further add squared age (column 3) and a whole range of dummy variables for each percentile of the age distribution (column 4). This exercise further diminishes the clean coefficient from 0.430 to 0.353, indicating that part of the clean premium is explained by the relative novelty of the field.

Second, we compare knowledge spillovers between clean inventions in the transport and electricity technologies to other radically new technologies, namely IT, biotechnologies, nanotechnologies, robots and 3D (see Table 21). We also compare clean technologies to these emerging technologies in terms of their generality and originality (see Table 18 and table 35 respectively). Results show that clean inventions receive 41% more citations than biotech inventions. However, clean inventions receive significantly fewer citations than inventions in the IT, nanotechnology, robot and 3D industries. We find that clean inventions are less general and less original than all new technologies apart from nanotechnologies. Taken together, these results suggest that the relative novelty of clean technologies might explain why they exhibit larger spillovers. Looking at the coefficients obtained for the clean invention variable, it is interesting to note that knowledge spillovers from clean technologies appear comparable to those in the IT sector, which has been behind the third industrial revolution.

Third, we compare the previous sample (clean transport, clean electricity, IT, biotech, nano,

robots and 3D) to all other inventions. Figure 5 plots the coefficient of the dirty (in black), grey (in grey), clean (in green) and radically new technologies (in orange). Clean transport and electricity exhibit larger spillovers than the average invention. In terms of relative ranking, the clean transport and clean electricity are positioned between their dirty counterparts and radically new technologies.

Fourth, we restrict the sample of radically new technologies (IT, biotechs, nano, robots and 3D) and compare clean and dirty inventions within these technologies. While clean inventions within the IT and the biotechs technologies still exhibit larger knowledge spillovers, there is no clean advantage within the nano and robot sectors. Clean inventions within the 3D technologies even receive fewer citations.

Finally, in an attempt to find a dirty yet radically new technology, we compare knowledge spillovers between clean electricity production technologies and carbon capture and storage technologies (CCS) in table 25. The clean advantage disappears when considering simple patent counts and PatentRank, suggesting it is not because they are clean that clean technologies generate larger knowledge spillovers.

7 Discussion and conclusion

In this paper we compare the relative intensity of knowledge spillovers from clean and dirty technologies. To measure knowledge spillovers, we use a rich dataset of 3 million citations received by over a million inventions patented in the automobile and electricity production sectors. This analysis is crucial to answer the question of whether clean technologies warrant higher subsidies than dirty ones. Our results unambiguously show that clean technologies induce larger knowledge spillovers than their dirty counterparts. Moreover, we provide a measure of the economic values of knowledge externalities of relevant clean technologies. We find that evidence of larger monetary value associated to knowledge spillovers from clean

Table 19: Controlling for age of technological field

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dep. var.	Citations received			
Clean invention	0.410*** (0.013)	0.381*** (0.013)	0.363*** (0.013)	0.354*** (0.013)
Number of patents	-0.094*** (0.004)	-0.052*** (0.005)	-0.043*** (0.005)	-0.046*** (0.005)
Family size	0.070*** (0.004)	0.067*** (0.003)	0.068*** (0.003)	0.068*** (0.003)
Triadic	0.448*** (0.035)	0.431*** (0.035)	0.406*** (0.034)	0.397*** (0.034)
Granted	0.939*** (0.031)	0.929*** (0.030)	0.917*** (0.030)	0.912*** (0.030)
Age of tech field		-0.177*** (0.009)	0.194*** (0.034)	
Age of tech field ²			-0.023*** (0.002)	
Age of tech dummies	no	no	no	yes
Observations	1,149,237	1,149,237	1,149,237	1,149,237

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, corrected for self-citations by inventors. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Table 20: Controlling for age of technological field

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dep. var.	PatentRank index			
Clean invention	0.283*** (0.013)	0.267*** (0.013)	0.257*** (0.013)	0.247*** (0.012)
Number of patents	-0.053*** (0.003)	-0.029*** (0.003)	-0.023*** (0.003)	-0.023*** (0.003)
Family size	0.065*** (0.003)	0.063*** (0.003)	0.063*** (0.003)	0.063*** (0.003)
Triadic	0.236*** (0.025)	0.227*** (0.025)	0.210*** (0.025)	0.202*** (0.025)
Granted	0.487*** (0.021)	0.480*** (0.021)	0.474*** (0.020)	0.470*** (0.020)
Age of tech field		-0.117*** (0.006)	0.233*** (0.014)	
Age of tech field^2			-0.023*** (0.001)	
Age of tech dummies	no	no	no	yes
Observations	1,149,237	1,149,237	1,149,237	1,149,237

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the PatentRank index. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Table 21: Spillovers from clean and other new technologies

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Baseline sector	IT	Biotechs	Nano	Robot	3D
Dep. var.	Citations received				
Clean invention	-0.153*** (0.029)	0.408*** (0.033)	-0.337*** (0.062)	-0.127*** (0.042)	-0.278*** (0.036)
Number of patents	-0.013 (0.008)	-0.160*** (0.014)	-0.031*** (0.008)	-0.039*** (0.008)	-0.037*** (0.008)
Family size	0.020*** (0.003)	0.033*** (0.005)	0.063*** (0.007)	0.063*** (0.007)	0.062*** (0.007)
Triadic	0.574*** (0.057)	0.663*** (0.053)	0.525*** (0.070)	0.550*** (0.069)	0.528*** (0.068)
Granted	1.181*** (0.065)	0.806*** (0.023)	0.862*** (0.038)	0.877*** (0.036)	0.882*** (0.037)
Observations	1,445,552	403,294	180,441	198,602	185,726

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, corrected for self-citations by inventors. The sample includes all clean patents (transport and electricity) and patents from the following technologies: IT (column 1), bioechs (column 2), nano (column 3), robot (column 4), and 3D (column 5). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Figure 5: Clean, grey, dirty, and radically new technologies vs. all other technologies-Citations count

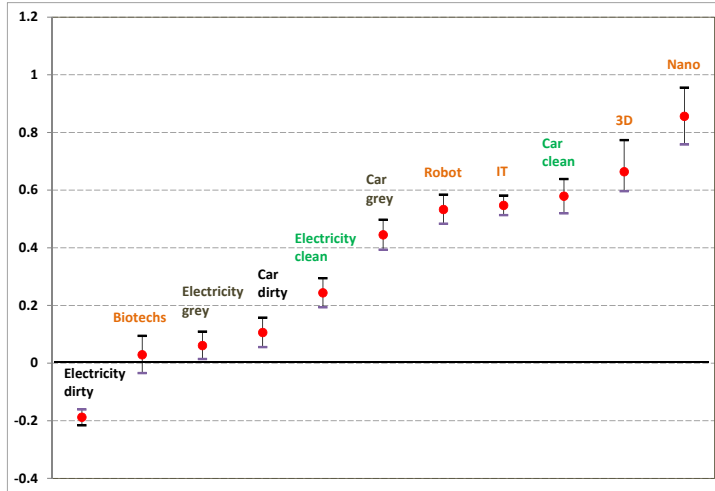


Table 22: Spillovers from clean and other new technologies

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Baseline sector	IT	Biotechs	Nano	Robot	3D
Dep. var.	PatentRank index				
Clean invention	-0.039 (0.028)	0.131*** (0.023)	-0.249*** (0.040)	-0.096* (0.043)	-0.120*** (0.018)
Number of patents	-0.031*** (0.005)	-0.029*** (0.006)	0.023*** (0.008)	0.014 (0.078)	0.018* (0.008)
Family size	0.017*** (0.003)	0.029*** (0.004)	0.052*** (0.006)	0.053*** (0.006)	0.052*** (0.006)
Triadic	0.421*** (0.050)	0.435*** (0.042)	0.329*** (0.055)	0.337*** (0.054)	0.333*** (0.055)
Granted	0.604*** (0.040)	0.413*** (0.017)	0.441*** (0.025)	0.443*** (0.025)	0.448*** (0.025)
Observations	1,445,552	403,294	180,441	198,602	185,726

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is the PatentRank index. The sample includes all clean patents (transport and electricity) and patents from the following technologies: IT (column 1), biotechs (column 2), nano (column 3), robot (column 4), and 3D (column 5). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Figure 6: Clean, grey, dirty, and radically new technologies vs. all other technologies - PageRank index

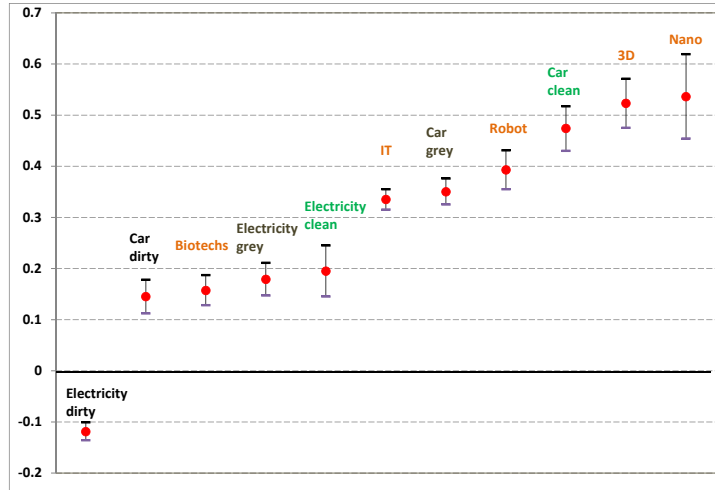


Table 23: Comparing spillovers from clean and dirty within new technologies

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sector	IT	Biotechs	Nano	Robot	3D
Dep. var.	Citations received				
Clean invention	0.222* (0.091)	0.609** (0.053)	0.313 (0.211)	0.677 (0.525)	-0.950** (0.352)
Number of patents	-0.012 (0.008)	-0.257*** (0.016)	-0.169*** (0.044)	-0.051 (0.047)	-0.171*** (0.025)
Family size	0.020*** (0.003)	0.033*** (0.005)	0.109*** (0.018)	0.104*** (0.014)	0.078*** (0.015)
Triadic	0.547*** (0.055)	0.583*** (0.056)	0.268* (0.136)	0.387*** (0.113)	0.255** (0.100)
Granted	1.220*** (0.072)	0.699*** (0.031)	0.961*** (0.145)	1.005*** (0.053)	1.126*** (0.074)
Observations	1,270,842	227,100	1,481	22,266	9,359

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, corrected for self-citations by inventors. The sample includes patents from the following technologies: IT (column 1), bioechs (column 2), nano (column 3), robot (column 4), and 3D (column 5). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

technology. We conduct a large number of sensitivity tests and the findings are remarkably robust. In particular, as depicted by the innovation flowers, this result is confirmed when using a completely novel methodology to measure knowledge spillovers that does not only count immediate forward citations but takes into account the whole network of patent citations.

We explore five potential explanations for our findings. First, we find no evidence that the clean industry is more geographically clustered. Second, differential citations behaviors among scientists involved in clean technologies cannot fully explain the clean advantage. Third, we find no evidence that government spending cannot account for clean premium. Fourth, we examine the generality and originality features of clean inventions. We find that clean inventions in the automobile industry are more general (i.e. they are cited by a wider range of technological fields) and more original. However, clean inventions in the electricity

Table 24: Comparing spillovers from clean and dirty within new technologies

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sector	IT	Biotechs	Nano	Robot	3D
Dep. var.	PatentRank index				
Clean invention	0.129*	0.422***	0.189	0.349	0.290
	(0.053)	(0.067)	(0.100)	(0.325)	(0.461)
Number of patents	-0.037***	-0.074***	0.033	-0.062**	-0.080***
	(0.006)	(0.005)	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.014)
Family size	0.017***	0.028***	0.070***	0.088***	0.056***
	(0.003)	(0.004)	(0.013)	(0.009)	(0.011)
Triadic	0.401***	0.406***	0.341***	0.261***	0.305**
	(0.049)	(0.041)	(0.070)	(0.057)	(0.060)
Granted	0.624***	0.342***	0.424***	0.443***	0.571***
	(0.044)	(0.019)	(0.075)	(0.042)	(0.044)
Observations	1,270,842	227,100	1,481	22,266	9,359

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the PatentRank. The sample includes patents from the following technologies: IT (column 1), bioechs (column 2), nano (column 3), robot (column 4), and 3D (column 5). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Table 25: Spillovers from clean and CCS technologies

	(1)	(2)
Dep. var.	Citations received	PatentRank index
Clean invention	-0.083*	0.045
	(0.034)	(0.023)
Number of patents	0.037***	0.057***
	(0.010)	(0.010)
Family size	0.065***	0.055***
	(0.006)	(0.005)
Triadic	0.477***	0.271***
	(0.062)	(0.047)
Granted	0.681***	0.338***
	(0.030)	(0.019)
Observations	106,700	106,700

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, corrected for self-citations by inventors. The sample includes clean electricity production inventions and CO2 Capture and Storage technology. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

production industry are less general and less original. Finally, we compare clean inventions to other radically new inventions such as IT, biotechnologies and nanotechnologies. We conclude that clean inventions seem to benefit from early returns to scale and steep learning curves. Interestingly we observe that knowledge spillovers from clean technologies appear comparable in scope to those in the IT sector.

Our results have two important policy implications. Firstly, the larger knowledge spillovers from clean technologies uncovered in this study justify higher subsidies for clean R&D or specific R&D programs for clean technologies, in addition to implicit support for clean R&D through climate policies such as carbon taxation. Radically new clean technologies should receive higher public support than research activities targeted at improving on the existing dirty technologies.²⁵ However, such specific support could equally be justified for a range of other emerging areas, such as nanotechnologies or IT. This recommendation has been made in the past, for instance by Hart (2008) or Acemoglu et al. (2012) but it is the first time to our knowledge that it is substantiated by robust empirical evidence.²⁶ While a first best policy scenario would suggest a combination of emissions pricing and R&D subsidies *specifically* targeted at clean technologies, in times of tight government budgets it might be difficult to achieve the necessary subsidy levels. There might also be concerns over governments' ability to channel funds to R&D projects with the highest potential either because of information asymmetry or because of political interference. In this case our results would support a second best policy with more stringent emission pricing and regulation that would otherwise

²⁵Importantly, our results suggest that the relative support to clean R&D should grow over time. Incidentally, in a recent working paper Daubanes et al. (2013) show that gradual rise in subsidies to clean R&D activities causes a less rapid extraction of fossil resources, because it enhances the long-run resource productivity.

²⁶Interestingly, statistics in OECD countries show that there is higher public R&D spending in clean technologies than in dirty ones. A look at the International Energy Agency's R&D expenditures data reveals that between 2000 and 2012, OECD countries have spent 198 million euros on dirty cars and 18 billion euros on dirty energy but 327 million euros on clean cars (65% more than dirty cars) and 25 billion euros on clean energy (35% more than dirty energy). However, these numbers do not include subsidies to *private* clean R&D, which is also warranted in a first best policy setting.

be the case (see for example Gerlagh et al. (2009); Hart (2008); Kverndokk et al. (2004); Kverndokk and Rosendahl (2007)).

Secondly, our results lend support to the idea that a redirection of innovation from dirty to clean technologies induced by environmental or climate policies can lead to higher growth in the short and medium run. This can happen if the larger spillover effects from clean technologies exceed any negative growth effects from more stringent regulation. Our results however suggest that the potential growth effects of environmental policies very much depend on the type of displacement being induced by increasing support for clean technologies. If clean innovation crowds out dirty innovation, as shown by Aghion et al. (2012) for the transport industry, there is scope for medium run growth effects. If innovation in other emerging areas is crowded out, such effects are less likely. At any rate, one should keep in mind that higher spillovers are only a necessary but not a sufficient condition for growth effects from green policies.

Our work can be extended in several directions. First, it would be interesting to investigate how knowledge spillovers affect firms' decisions to invest in radical innovation (clean technologies) or in incremental innovation (less dirty technologies), and how they respond to R&D subsidies targeted at clean technologies. Second, an interesting direction is to understand the spatial pattern of knowledge diffusion for clean technologies, including the transfer of knowledge across borders, in particular between developed and developing countries. Third, we could use micro data to estimate the impact of knowledge spillovers from clean and dirty technologies on firms' productivity. These parameters are crucial to empirically validate the potential impact of green policies on economic growth.

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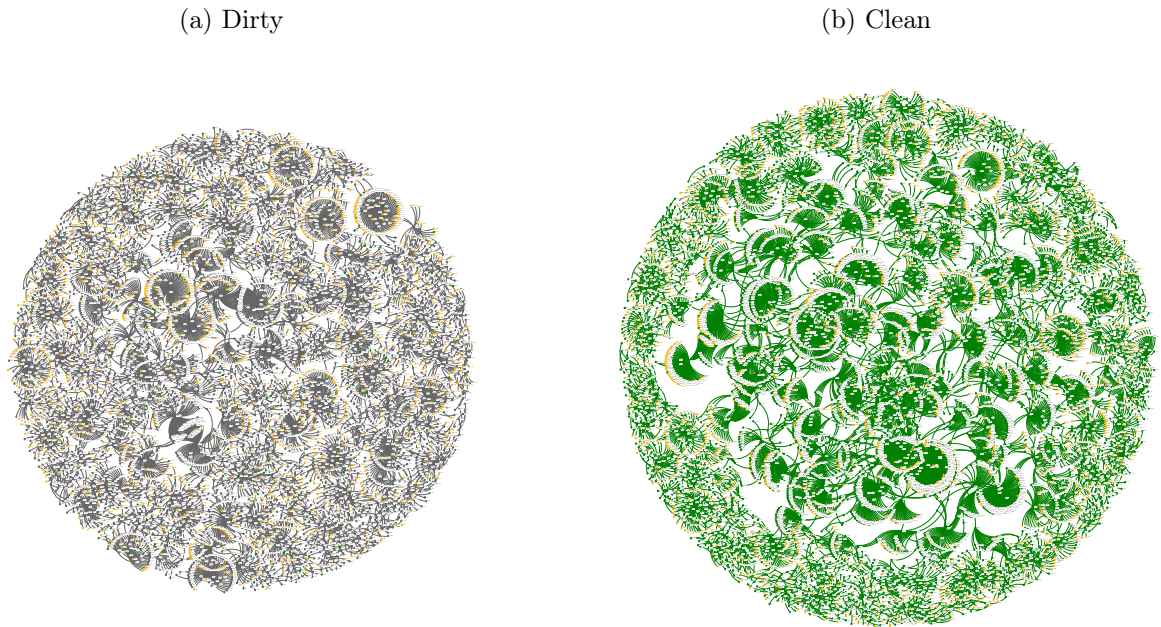
Appendix

Robustness Checks

Five years window

As in section 2.4 we look at the number of citations received within a five-year window to at least partially overcome the truncation bias that is due to the fact that we observe citations

Figure 7: Innovation Flowers



Notes: The figures visualize innovation spillovers. We draw a random sample of 1000 dirty and 1000 clean innovations corresponding to the nodes in the figures. The edges correspond to backwards citations. An interactive version is under http://www.eeclab.org.uk/forcedirect_arx.html?tojson_dirlinks0_1995_15_1000_0.json and http://www.eeclab.org.uk/forcedirect_arx.html?tojson_dirlinks0_1995_15_1000_2.json.

Table 26: Patent classification codes - Transport

CLEAN	
B60K 1	Arrangement or mounting of electrical propulsion units
B60K 6	Arrangement or mounting of hybrid propulsion systems comprising electric motors and internal combustion
B60L 3	Electric devices on electrically-propelled vehicles for safety purposes: Monitoring operating variables e.g. speed, deceleration, power consumption
B60L 7	Dynamic electric regenerative braking
B60L 11	Electric propulsion with power supplied within the vehicle
B60L 15	Methods, circuits, or devices for controlling the traction-motor speed of electrically-propelled vehicles
B60R 16	Electric or fluid circuits specially adapted for vehicles and not otherwise provided for
B60S 5	Supplying batteries to, or removing batteries from
B60W 10	Conjoint control of vehicles sub-units of different type or different function
B60W 20	Control systems specially adapted for hybrid vehicles
H01M	Fuel cells
GREY	
F02M 39/71	Fuel injection apparatus
F02M 3/02-05	Idling devices for carburettors preventing flow of idling fuel
F02M 23	Apparatus for adding secondary air to fuel-air mixture
F02M 25	Engine-pertinent apparatus for adding non-fuel substances or small quantities of secondary fuel to combustion-air, main fuel, or fuel-air mixture
F02D 41	Electric control of supply of combustion mixture or its constituents
F02B 47/06	Methods of operating engines involving adding non-fuel substances or anti-knock agents to combustion air, fuel, or fuel-air mixtures of engines, the substances including non-airborne oxygen
DIRTY	
F02B	Internal-combustion piston engines; combustion engines in genera
F02D	Controlling combustion engines
F02F	Cylinders, pistons, or casings for combustion engines; arrangement of sealings in combustion engines
F02M	Supplying combustion engines with combustibles mixtures or constituents thereof
F02N	Starting of combustion engines
F02P	Ignition (other than compression ignition) for internal-combustion engines

Table 27: Patent classification codes - Electricity Production

CLEAN	
Y02E10	Energy generation through renewable energy sources
Y02E30	Energy generation of nuclear origin
E02B9/08	Tide or wave power plants
F03B13/10-26	Submerged units incorporating electric generators or motors characterized by using wave or tide energy
F03D	Wind motors
F03G4	Devices for producing mechanical power from geothermal energy
F03G6	Devices for producing mechanical power from solar energy
F03G7/05	Ocean thermal energy conversion
F24J2	Use of solar heat, e.g. solar heat collectors
F24J3/08	Production or use of heat, not derived from combustion using geothermal heat
F26B3/28	Drying solid materials or objects by processes involving the application of heat by radiation, e.g. from the sun
GREY	
Y02E50	Technologies for the production of fuel of non-fossil origin
Y02E20/10	Combined combustion
Y02E20/12	Heat utilisation in combustion or incineration of waste
Y02E20/14	Combined heat and power generation
Y02E20/16	Combined cycle power plant, or combined cycle gas turbine
Y02E20/18	Integrated gasification combined cycle
Y02E20/30	Technologies for a more efficient combustion or heat usage
Y02E20/32	Direct CO ₂ mitigation
Y02E20/34	Indirect CO ₂ mitigation, by acting on non CO ₂ directly related matters of the process, more efficient use of fuels
Y02E20/36	Heat recovery other than air pre-heating
DIRTY	
C10G1	Production of liquid hydrocarbon mixtures from oil-shale, oil-sand, or non-melting solid carbonaceous or similar materials, e.g. wood, coal, oil-sand, or the like B03B
C10L1	Fuel
C10J	Production of fuel gases by carburetting air or other gases
E02B	Hydraulic engineering
F01K	Steam engine plans; steam accumulators; engine plants not otherwise provided for; engines using special working fluids or cycles
F02C	Gas-turbine plants; air intakes for jet-propulsion plants; controlling fuel supply in air-breathing jet-propulsion plants
F22	Steam generation
F23	Combustion apparatus; combustion processes
F24J	Production or use of heat not otherwise provided for
F27	Furnaces; kilns; ovens; retorts
F28	Heat exchange in general

Table 28: Patent classification codes - Radically New Technologies

3D	
H04N 13	Stereoscopic television systems
IT	
G06	Computing; Calculating; Counting
G10L	Speech Analysis or Synthesis; Speech Recognition; Speech or Voice Processing; Speech or Audio Coding or I
G11C	Static Stores
(not G06Q)	Data Processing Systems or Methods; Specially Adapted for Administrative, Commercial, Financial, Managerial, Supervisory or Forecasting purposes; Systems or Methods Specially Adapted for Administrative Commercial, Financial, Managerial, Supervisory or Forecasting purposes, not otherwise provided for
Biotechs	
C07G	Compounds of unknown constitution
C07K	Peptides
C12M	Apparatus for Enzymology or Microbiology
C12N	Micro-organisms or enzymes; compositions thereof
C12P	Fermentation or Enzyme-using Processes to Synthesise a desired chemical compound or composition or to separate optical isomers from a racemic mixture
C12Q	Measuring or Testing Processes Involving Enzymes or Micro-Organisms; Compositions or test papers therefor; Processes of preparing such compositions; Condition responsive control in microbiological or enzymological processes
C12R	Processes using micro-organisms
(not A61K)	Preparations for Medical, Dental, or Toilet Purposes
Nano	
B82	Nano-technology
Robot	
B25J 9	Programme-controlled manipulators

Table 29: Clean, Grey and true Dirty - Transport

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sample	Clean vs. Grey and true Dirty	Clean vs. Grey	Grey vs. True Dirty	Clean vs. True Dirty
Dep. var.	Citations received			
Clean/Grey invention	0.347*** (0.018)	0.118*** (0.020)	0.304*** (0.017)	0.481*** (0.022)
Number of patents	-0.068*** (0.009)	-0.144*** (0.010)	-0.109*** (0.009)	-0.082*** (0.009)
Family size	0.070*** (0.008)	0.070*** (0.011)	0.081*** (0.010)	0.065*** (0.007)
Triadic	0.521*** (0.056)	0.483*** (0.071)	0.474*** (0.059)	0.488*** (0.055)
Granted	1.134*** (0.034)	1.122*** (0.041)	1.173*** (0.036)	1.046*** (0.032)
Observations	419,959	207,524	345,313	287,469

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, corrected for self-citations by inventors. The sample includes clean, grey and truly dirty (column 1), clean and grey (column 2), grey and truly dirty (column 3), and clean and truly dirty (column 4) inventions all in the transport sector. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Table 30: Clean, Grey and true Dirty - Transport

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sample	Clean vs. Grey and true Dirty	Clean vs. Grey	Grey vs. True Dirty	Clean vs. True Dirty
Dep. var.	PatentRank index			
Clean/Grey invention	0.219*** (0.014)	0.090*** (0.014)	0.169*** (0.017)	0.292*** (0.018)
Number of patents	-0.048*** (0.006)	-0.075*** (0.006)	-0.088*** (0.006)	-0.053*** (0.005)
Family size	0.062*** (0.007)	0.059*** (0.010)	0.074*** (0.007)	0.057*** (0.006)
Triadic	0.279*** (0.046)	0.281*** (0.057)	0.219*** (0.040)	0.284*** (0.046)
Granted	0.620*** (0.027)	0.599*** (0.027)	0.637*** (0.029)	0.588*** (0.024)
Observations	419,959	207,524	345,313	287,469

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is PatentRank index. The sample includes clean, grey and truly dirty (column 1), clean and grey (column 2), grey and truly dirty (column 3), and clean and truly dirty (column 4) inventions all in the transport sector. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Table 31: Clean, Grey and true Dirty - Electricity

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sample	Clean vs. Grey and true Dirty	Clean vs. Grey	Grey vs. True Dirty	Clean vs. True Dirty
Dep. var.	Citations received			
Clean/Grey invention	0.488*** (0.023)	0.188*** (0.032)	0.262*** (0.019)	0.499*** (0.023)
Number of patents	-0.047*** (0.009)	0.042*** (0.011)	-0.114*** (0.007)	-0.044*** (0.009)
Family size	0.067*** (0.004)	0.070*** (0.004)	0.066*** (0.004)	0.067*** (0.004)
Triadic	0.432*** (0.050)	0.416*** (0.051)	0.396*** (0.046)	0.438*** (0.050)
Granted	0.725*** (0.024)	0.660*** (0.029)	0.738*** (0.026)	0.727*** (0.025)
Observations	748,918	120,752	647,541	733,859

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, corrected for self-citations by inventors. The sample includes clean, grey and truly dirty (column 1), clean and grey (column 2), grey and truly dirty (column 3), and clean and truly dirty (column 4) inventions all in the electricity production sector. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Table 32: Clean, Grey and true Dirty - Electricity

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sample	Clean vs. Grey and true Dirty	Clean vs. Grey	Grey vs. True Dirty	Clean vs. True Dirty
Dep. var.	PatentRank index			
Clean/Grey invention	0.333*** (0.023)	0.046 (0.028)	0.287*** (0.013)	0.342*** (0.023)
Number of patents	-0.019*** (0.007)	0.062*** (0.010)	-0.073*** (0.004)	-0.015* (0.007)
Family size	0.060*** (0.004)	0.058*** (0.003)	0.061*** (0.004)	0.061*** (0.005)
Triadic	0.252*** (0.000)	0.228*** (0.038)	0.226*** (0.037)	0.256*** (0.042)
Granted	0.381*** (0.017)	0.331*** (0.018)	0.393*** (0.018)	0.382*** (0.017)
Observations	748,918	120,752	647,541	733,859

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the PatentRank index. The sample includes clean, grey and truly dirty (column 1), clean and grey (column 2), grey and truly dirty (column 3), and clean and truly dirty (column 4) inventions all in the electricity production sector. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

Table 33: Applicant fixed effect

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Dep. var.	Citations received	PatentRank		
Clean invention	0.400*** (0.019)	0.380*** (0.040)	0.274*** (0.017)	0.272*** (0.027)
Number of patents	-0.038*** (0.008)	-0.067*** (0.010)	-0.002 (0.007)	-0.024*** (0.008)
Family size	0.091*** (0.007)	0.100*** (0.011)	0.082*** (0.006)	0.085*** (0.009)
Triadic	0.461*** (0.056)	0.444*** (0.089)	0.250*** (0.042)	0.254*** (0.056)
Granted	1.022*** (0.033)	1.000*** (0.046)	0.562*** (0.024)	0.574*** (0.025)
Applicant fixed effect	no	yes	no	yes
Observations	435,584	435,584	435,584	435,584

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include year, month, and category fixed effects.

Table 34: Comparing the generality of clean and other new technologies

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sector	IT	Biotechs	Nano	Robot	3D
Dep. var.	Originality measure				
Clean invention	-0.050*** (0.004)	-0.059*** (0.004)	0.009 (0.018)	-0.130*** (0.004)	-0.184*** (0.006)
Number of patents	-0.070*** (0.002)	-0.033*** (0.002)	-0.049*** (0.002)	-0.051*** (0.002)	-0.051*** (0.002)
Family size	0.003*** (0.0004)	0.002*** (0.0003)	0.005*** (0.001)	0.005*** (0.001)	0.005*** (0.001)
Triadic	0.010*** (0.002)	0.005 (0.002)	0.014*** (0.005)	0.015*** (0.004)	0.014** (0.004)
Granted	0.020*** (0.002)	-0.003 (0.003)	0.029*** (0.003)	0.027*** (0.003)	0.027*** (0.003)
Observations	520,978	155,701	59,651	67,115	62,559

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is the originality measure. The sample includes all clean inventions (automobile and electricity production sectors) and inventions from the following technologies: IT (column 1), biotechs (column 2), nano (column 3), robot (column 4), and 3D (column 5). All columns are estimated by OLS and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

for only a portion of the life of an invention, with the duration of that portion varying across patent cohorts (see Table 36). The coefficients obtained for the clean dummy barely change.

Discarding citations

We discard citations added by patent examiners in Table 37.²⁷ By restricting the citation counts to the ones made by the applicant only, we address the concern that patent citations added by examiners might not capture actual knowledge spillovers. The results obtained when all sectors are pooled together barely change but the only noticeable difference is that the clean dummy is no longer significant on the fuel sector when citations added by examiners are excluded. Jaffe and Trajtenberg (1999)) find that patent assigned to the same firm are more likely to cite each other. We therefore correct for self-citations at the level of

²⁷Note that we restrict the sample to patent offices for which distinction between citation added by patent examiner or applicant is made.

Table 35: Comparing the generality of clean and other new technologies

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sector	IT	Biotechs	Nano	Robot	3D
Dep. var.	Generality measure				
Clean invention	-0.047*** (0.004)	-0.052*** (0.004)	0.009 (0.022)	-0.126*** (0.004)	-0.204*** (0.006)
Number of patents	-0.063*** (0.002)	-0.034*** (0.002)	-0.048*** (0.003)	-0.050*** (0.003)	-0.050*** (0.003)
Family size	0.004*** (0.0005)	0.003*** (0.0003)	0.008*** (0.001)	0.008*** (0.001)	0.008*** (0.001)
Triadic	0.013*** (0.002)	0.016*** (0.003)	0.022*** (0.005)	0.023*** (0.005)	0.020*** (0.004)
Granted	0.022*** (0.002)	0.022*** (0.002)	0.041*** (0.003)	0.038*** (0.003)	0.039*** (0.003)
Observations	723,257	207,073	94,437	103,972	98,461

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is the generality measure. The sample includes all clean patents (automobile and electricity production sectors) and patents from the following technologies: IT (column 1), biotechs (column 2), nano (column 3), robot (column 4), and 3D (column 5). All columns are estimated by OLS and include patent office-by-year and month fixed effects.

the applicant (the firm or the individual who filed the patent) rather than at the level of individual inventors in Table 38. The results don't change qualitatively.

Additional controls

We add a number of additional controls variables for patent quality in Table 39. The claims specify the components of the patent invention and hence represent the scope of the invention (Lanjouw and Schankerman (1999)). This information is only available in our patent database for a limited number of patent offices, implying that our sample size is significantly reduced. For this reason we do not include the number of claims in our baseline regressions, but overall the results barely change (coefficient on clean = 0.403***). The number of IPC3 codes is added in order to control for the fact that certain inventions belong to multiple IPC codes. These inventions are likely to be more general and therefore more cited. This effect

Table 36: Five-year window

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sector	All	Transport	Electricity	All	Transport	Electricity
Dep. var.	Citations received within 5-year window			PatentRank within 5-year window		
Clean invention	0.382*** (0.021)	0.284*** (0.025)	0.474*** (0.034)	0.210*** (0.015)	0.140*** (0.014)	0.248*** (0.026)
Number of patents	-0.038*** (0.008)	-0.055*** (0.001)	-0.023* (0.010)	-0.038*** (0.005)	-0.059*** (0.006)	-0.022** (0.007)
Family size	0.075*** (0.003)	0.070*** (0.001)	0.063*** (0.007)	0.069*** (0.003)	0.062*** (0.008)	0.059*** (0.006)
Triadic	0.508*** (0.043)	0.557*** (0.070)	0.515*** (0.068)	0.306*** (0.003)	0.354*** (0.053)	0.346*** (0.053)
Granted	1.005*** (0.040)	1.181*** (0.054)	0.756*** (0.035)	0.581*** (0.024)	0.693*** (0.036)	0.473*** (0.022)
Observations	1,162,220	419,959	748,918	1,162,220	419,959	748,918

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received within a five-year period after the publication year, corrected for self-citations by inventors (columns 1 to 3) and the PatentRank index on the sample of citations within five years (columns 4 to 6). The sample includes patents which have cited clean or dirty technologies in the automobile sector (columns 2 and 4), electricity sector (columns 3 and 6), and both (columns 1 and 4). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year-by-sector fixed effects, and month fixed effects.

Table 37: Citations made by *applicants* only

Sector	(1) All	(2) Transport	(3) Electricity	(4) All	(5) Transport	(6) Electricity
Dep. var.	Citations received excl. citations added by patent examiner		Citations added by patent examiner		PatentRank index excl. citations added by patent examiner	
Clean invention	0.624*** (0.018)	0.582*** (0.025)	0.659*** (0.026)	0.041*** (0.009)	0.013 (0.011)	0.085*** (0.009)
Number of patents	-0.010 (0.008)	-0.036*** (0.011)	0.007 (0.011)	-0.016*** (0.002)	-0.016*** (0.003)	-0.018*** (0.003)
Family size	0.070*** (0.003)	0.070*** (0.007)	0.060*** (0.004)	0.012*** (0.001)	0.017*** (0.002)	0.008*** (0.001)
Triadic	0.516*** (0.042)	0.537*** (0.064)	0.564*** (0.066)	0.072*** (0.008)	0.049*** (0.009)	0.098*** (0.011)
Granted	1.144*** (0.025)	1.164*** (0.035)	1.101*** (0.031)	0.102*** (0.007)	0.097*** (0.009)	0.105*** (0.012)
Observations	1,162,220	419,950	748,918	1,162,220	419,950	748,918

Notes: Robust standard errors in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, excluding citations made by the patent examiners and corrected for self-citations by inventors (columns 1 to 3) and the PatentRank index on the sample of citations excluding the ones made by the patent examiners (columns 4 to 6). The sample only includes patents for which the information on whether citations are added by the applicant or the patent examiner are available. The sample includes patents which have cited clean or dirty technologies in the automobile sector (columns 2 and 4), electricity production sector (columns 3 and 6), in both (columns 1 and 4). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year-by-sector fixed effects, and month fixed effects.

Table 38: Excluding self-citations at applicant level

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Sector	All	Transport	Electricity	All	Transport	Electricity
Dep. var.	PatentRank index corrected for self-citations at applicant level					
Clean invention	0.363*** (0.013)	0.351*** (0.022)	0.350*** (0.016)	0.164*** (0.007)	0.161*** (0.011)	0.155*** (0.010)
Number of patents	-0.040*** (0.005)	-0.030*** (0.007)	-0.047*** (0.007)	0.0004 (0.003)	0.002 (0.004)	0.001 (0.004)
Family size	0.044*** (0.003)	0.046*** (0.005)	0.038*** (0.003)	0.033*** (0.002)	0.033*** (0.003)	0.030*** (0.002)
Triadic	0.218*** (0.024)	0.250*** (0.039)	0.214** (0.030)	0.114*** (0.013)	0.103*** (0.019)	0.135** (0.015)
Granted	0.456*** (0.016)	0.549*** (0.019)	0.388*** (0.022)	0.201*** (0.010)	0.242*** (0.013)	0.168*** (0.013)
Observations	421,872	167,711	244,435	421,872	167,711	244,435

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, corrected for self-citations at the applicant level (columns 1 to 3) and the PatentRank index on the sample of citations excluding self-citations at the applicant level (columns 4 to 6). The sample includes patents which have cited clean or dirty technologies in the automobile sector (columns 2 and 4), electricity production sector (columns 3 and 6), in both (columns 1 and 4). All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year-by-sector fixed effects, and month fixed effects.

Table 39: Additional controls

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Dep. var.	Citations received					
Clean invention	0.404*** (0.015)	0.432*** (0.014)	0.427*** (0.015)	0.432*** (0.014)	0.428*** (0.014)	0.432*** (0.015)
Number of patents	-0.032*** (0.005)	-0.020*** (0.008)	-0.005*** (0.006)	-0.049*** (0.007)	-0.057*** (0.007)	-0.013 (0.007)
Family size	0.033*** (0.002)	0.065*** (0.004)	0.061*** (0.003)	0.062*** (0.003)	0.056*** (0.004)	0.013*** (0.003)
Triadic	0.239*** (0.012)	0.464*** (0.042)	0.281*** (0.022)	0.401*** (0.029)	0.447*** (0.034)	0.229*** (0.019)
Granted	0.750*** (0.025)	0.938*** (0.000)	0.922*** (0.028)	0.894*** (0.030)	0.941*** (0.030)	0.855*** (0.028)
# claims	0.010*** (0.0004)					
# IPC 3		0.103*** (0.013)				0.092*** (0.005)
# inventors			0.321*** (0.014)			0.341*** (0.167)
# citations made				0.018*** (0.001)		0.017*** (0.001)
# applicants					0.009*** (0.0010)	-0.008*** (0.001)
Obs.	175,298	1,161,160	865,607	1,161,160	1,161,160	

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, excluding self-citations by the inventor (columns 1 to 3) and the PatentRank index on the sample of citations excluding self-citations by the inventor (columns 4 to 6). The sample includes clean or dirty technologies in the automobile and electricity production sectors. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year-by-sector fixed effects, and month fixed effects.

however does not appear to downplay the clean advantage in terms of spillovers. Finally, we add the number of inventors and still find that clean inventions are

Various subsamples

In Table 41 we look at different subsamples. We start by restricting the sample to patents that received at least one citation. Given that a large fraction of patents (69%) are never cited, spillovers from clean technologies might be biased if there are disproportionately more

Table 40: Additional controls

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Dep. var.	PatentRank index					
Clean invention	0.239*** (0.009)	0.295*** (0.014)	0.294*** (0.013)	0.294*** (0.014)	0.291*** (0.014)	0.298*** (0.013)
Number of patents	-0.0002 (0.002)	-0.005 (0.005)	-0.022*** (0.004)	-0.027*** (0.005)	-0.031*** (0.005)	0.003*** (0.004)
Family size	0.021*** (0.001)	0.061*** (0.003)	0.023*** (0.002)	0.059*** (0.003)	0.058*** (0.003)	0.023*** (0.002)
Triadic	0.120*** (0.005)	0.244*** (0.030)	0.138*** (0.017)	0.193*** (0.022)	0.236*** (0.026)	0.095*** (0.014)
Granted	0.336*** (0.016)	0.484*** (0.021)	0.517*** (0.018)	0.462*** (0.019)	0.488*** (0.021)	0.475*** (0.017)
# claims	0.004*** (0.0002)					
# IPC 3		0.077*** (0.007)				0.062*** (0.003)
# inventors			0.216*** (0.009)			0.238*** (0.010)
# citations made				0.014*** (0.001)		0.012*** (0.001)
# applicants					0.006*** (0.002)	-0.008 (0.001)
Obs.	175,298	1,161,160	865,607	1,161,160	1,161,160	

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the PatentRank index on the sample of citations received, excluding self-citations by the inventor. The sample includes clean or dirty technologies in the automobile and electricity production sectors. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year-by-sector fixed effects, and month fixed effects

Table 41: Different subsamples

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sample	nozero	triadic	US patent office	EU patent office
Dep. var.	Citations received			
Clean invention	0.321*** (0.012)	0.387*** (0.019)	0.429*** (0.019)	0.491*** (0.050)
Number of patents	-0.045*** (0.005)	-0.041*** (0.008)	-0.054*** (0.009)	-0.010 (0.019)
Family size	0.056*** (0.002)	0.021*** (0.002)	0.049*** (0.003)	0.048*** (0.011)
Triadic	0.365*** (0.022)		0.134*** (0.021)	0.447*** (0.048)
Granted	0.625*** (0.025)	0.663*** (0.045)	0.957*** (0.069)	0.641*** (0.045)
Observations	514,865	45,129	134,664	10,248

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the total number of citations received, excluding self-citations by the inventor. The sample includes (i) patents that receive at least one citation in column 1; (ii) triadic patents (filed at EPO, USPTO and JPO) in column 2; (iii) patents first filed in the US patent office only in column 3; (iv) patents first filed in the European patent office only in column 4. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year-by-sector fixed effects, and month fixed effects.

dirty patents that are never cited. We also look at highly valuable inventions by focusing on triadic patents (i.e., patents that have been filed at the USPTO, the EPO and the Japan Patent Office, see above). This can give us some insight into whether the clean advantage is still present for the upper part of the distribution. In addition, we restrict our sample to patents filed at the US patent office and at the European Patent Office. None of these tests modify our main finding (coefficient on clean between 0.319*** and 0.469***).


Table 42: Different subsamples

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Sample	nozero	triadic	US patent office	EU patent office
Dep. var.	PatentRank index			
Clean invention	0.173*** (0.008)	0.212*** (0.009)	0.254*** (0.014)	0.340*** (0.032)
Number of patents	-0.013*** (0.002)	-0.003 (0.003)	-0.016*** (0.004)	-0.007 (0.008)
Family size	0.039*** (0.002)	0.007*** (0.001)	0.031*** (0.002)	0.038*** (0.003)
Triadic	0.164*** (0.013)		0.070*** (0.010)	0.234*** (0.023)
Granted	0.249*** (0.016)	0.294*** (0.024)	0.573*** (0.040)	0.337*** (0.026)
Observations	514,865	45,129	134,664	10,248

Notes: Robust standard errors, p-values in parentheses (* p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001). The dependent variable is the PatentRank index on the sample of citations received, corrected for self-citations by inventors. The sample includes (i) patents that receive at least one citation in column 1; (ii) triadic patents (filed at EPO, USPTO and JPO) in column 2; (iii) patents first filed in the US patent office only in column 3; (iv) patents first filed in the European patent office only in column 4. All columns are estimated by Poisson pseudo-maximum likelihood and include patent office-by-year-by-sector fixed effects, and month fixed effects.

Patent example

Figure 8: Patent example



US008728857B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Nelson et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 8,728,857 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 20, 2014**

(54) **PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR CELL**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
H01L 31/05 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **438/98**; 257/E31.124; 257/E31.13

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
None
See application file for complete search history.

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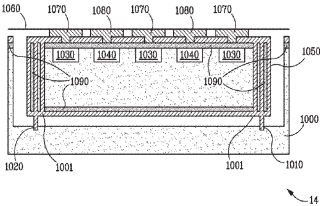
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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A photovoltaic solar cell for generating electricity from sunlight is disclosed. The photovoltaic solar cell comprises a plurality of spaced-apart point contact junctions formed in a semiconductor body to receive the sunlight and generate the electricity therefrom, the plurality of spaced-apart point contact junctions having a first plurality of regions having a first doping type and a second plurality of regions having a second doping type. In addition, the photovoltaic solar cell comprises a first electrical contact electrically connected to each of the first plurality of regions and a second electrical contact electrically connected to each of the second plurality of regions, as well as a passivation layer covering major surfaces and sidewalls of the photovoltaic solar cell.

20 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



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Firm-level descriptives

Table 43: Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Median	Min	Max	Std. Dev.
Market Value (\$M)	3.064	0.204	0.000001	512	14.3
Total assets (\$M)	6.960	0.308	0.0000001	2560	64.4
Profits/Losses (\$M)	0.401	0.027	0	83.4	1.946
Operating revenue	3088484	275426.5	0	4.22e+08	1.35e+07
Number of employees	9514.376	1261	0	2200000	41489.24
Tobin's Q	1.173	0.687	0.032	16.338	1.573
R&D stock (\$M)	0.239	5251.681	0	51	1.638
Patent stock	179.456	6.952	0	51,000,000	1,376.09
Backward citation stock	1,200.256	28.074	0	430,778.7	9,608.387
Forward citation stock	771.999	14.624	0	432,158.4	7,241.235
R&D stock / Total assets	0.236	0.024	0	209.654	1.920
Patent stock / R&D	0.020	0.001	0	48.808	0.427
Fwd citation stock / Patent stock	4.355	2	0	480	8.146
Bwd citation stock / Patent stock	7.156	4.457	0	137	9.516
Clean bwd citation stock / Patent stock	0.086	0	0	40.472	0.799
Dirty bwd citation stock / Patent stock	0.187	0	0	36.507	0.962
Other bwd citation stock / Patent stock	6.883	4.149	0	137	9.325

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